

UNITED STATES NAVY

# SEABEE

SUMMER 2007



## MRAPs Dig Into Iraq

**INSIDE:** Seabees Break Ground on  
State-of-the-Art Museum





# SUMMER 07

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### FINAL WORD

RADM Robert L. Phillips, CEC, USN, Commander, 1NCD, delivers his 'final' message to the readers of Seabee Magazine

(Cover) EO3 Jacob Stahl, a member of NMCB 4's Convoy Security Element, prepares to mount out with the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Armored Vehicle at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in May. The MRAP or "Cougar" is currently being used in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The V-shaped hull assists deflection of explosive blasts away from the vehicle's capsule, while the ballistic glass with gun ports allows the passengers to engage insurgents' ambush attempts without leaving the safety of the cab.

Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge

(This spread) As the sun rises over Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala's largest Pacific Ocean port, an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) Causeway Ferry continues deployment in support of Exercise Humanitarian Support Over-the-Shore (HSOTS) 2007. ACB 1's recent deployment in Guatemala for HSOTS 2007 represented the first time that INLS had been deployed away from homeport in support of an exercise or operation.

Photo by YN3 Jessica Bidwell  
(photo illustration)



As the largest Navy ground force deployed to Iraq, the Seabees continue to be on the receiving end of more than \$400 million in updated expeditionary equipment, approved by the U.S. Congress in late 2006. In this issue, we provide a closer look at how the newly modernized tactical vehicles — the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, in particular — have integrated with convoy security teams, from the perspective of the 30<sup>th</sup> NCR on the ground in Iraq. We also provide a rundown of all the new vehicles, construction equipment and gear aiding the Naval Construction Force in the Global War on Terror.

The subject of our *Profile* presents the situation in Iraq from a different angle. Seabee LT Allen Willey, CEC, formerly resident in charge of construction for the Basrah Children's Hospital, a pediatric oncology facility which will specialize in treating and perhaps even curing the disease which nearly killed his son several years ago, shares the story of his family's journey that led him to this mission halfway around the world.

We also feature ACB 1's involvement in Guatemala with Humanitarian Support Over-the-Shore (HSOTS) 2007 and Project Handclasp, a program which accepts and transports educational, humanitarian and goodwill material overseas on a space-available basis on U.S. Navy ships. Seabees not only built and repaired numerous structures during this mission, they created and solidified relationships between the people of Guatemala and the United States.

We highlight several milestones in this issue. Seabees broke ground on a state-of-the-art museum in Port Hueneme, Calif., dedicated to honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of the Builder Warriors and CEC officers. In addition, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command celebrated its 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1842 as the Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks to present-day NAVFAC with more than 75 locations worldwide, this proud legacy is paving the way for an even greater future. We also welcome RADM Richard Cellon as the new INCD Commander.

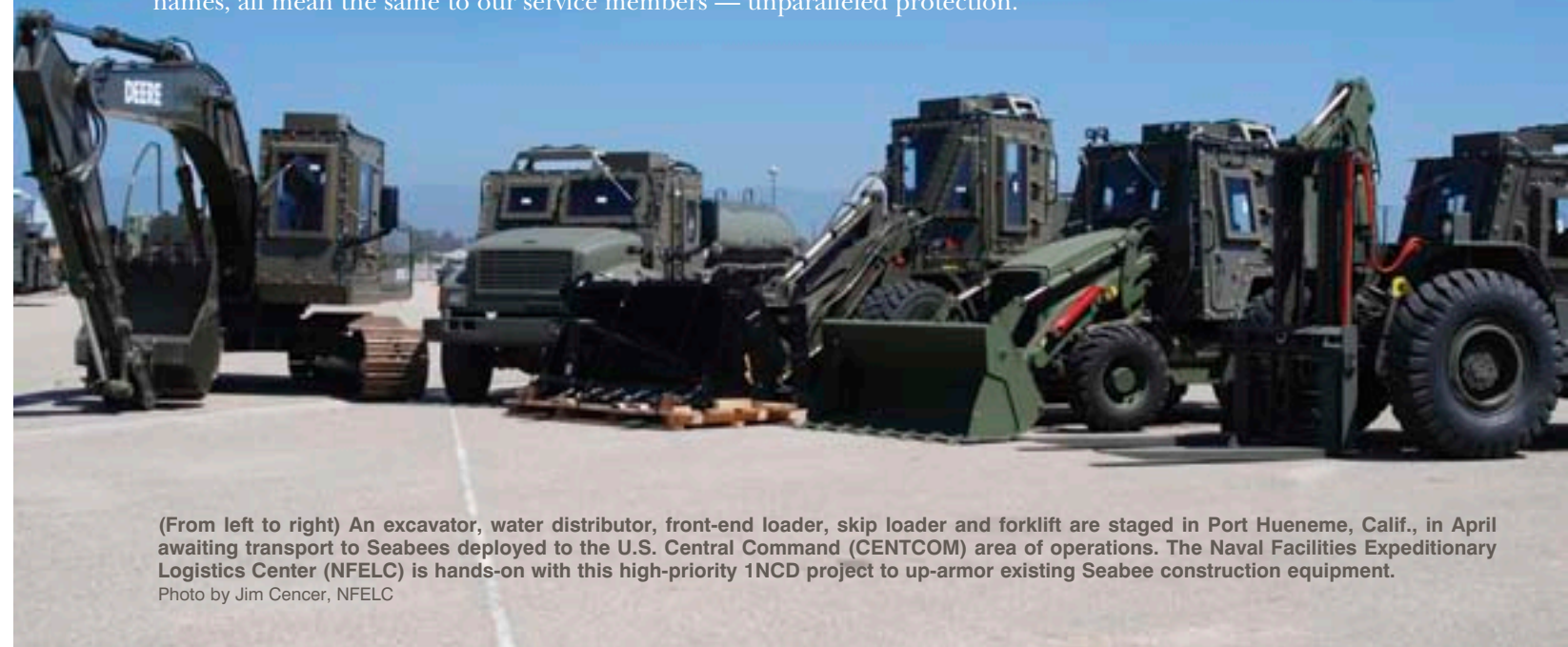
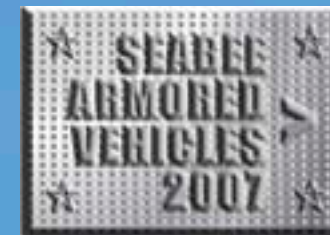
Remember to send us your Seabee news and *Profile* subjects, as well as photos\*, comments and candid feedback so that we may continue to provide a well-rounded account of the Seabee story. Contact us via...

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Thank you for your continued interest in *Seabee*!

Sincerely,  
Seabee Magazine Team

*\* Preferred format for photo resolution is 300dpi at 5x7 inches minimum.*



(From left to right) An excavator, water distributor, front-end loader, skip loader and forklift are staged in Port Hueneme, Calif., in April awaiting transport to Seabees deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations. The Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC) is hands-on with this high-priority 1NCD project to up-armor existing Seabee construction equipment.  
Photo by Jim Cencer, NFELC

## Seabee Magazine Summer 2007

### MILITARY RECIPIENTS

Units or organizations with Seabees assigned are authorized no-cost distributions of *SEABEE* Magazine (ISSN 1546-8429). Send requests by mail or fax on official letterhead signed by the commanding officer or officer in charge, citing number of unit personnel, to the magazine's postal address or fax number shown below.

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### EDITORIAL

*SEABEE* Magazine is scheduled quarterly (except for combined or other special issues) by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office from the historic Washington Navy Yard, "the Quarterdeck of the Navy." Our readership consists of Active and Reserve Seabees and CEC officers and their families, as well as veterans, retirees and the general public. Letters and electronic mail are welcome on all Seabee-related topics and, if published, are subject to editing for length and clarity. Written and photographic submissions that show Active and Reserve Seabees are strongly encouraged. We prefer to receive all written and photographic submissions by e-mail to [seabeemagazine@navy.mil](mailto:seabeemagazine@navy.mil). Film or digital images should include captions and be unmodified; digital files should measure at least 300dpi at 5x7 inches. All submissions must include the author's full name, rank/rate, postal address, duty contact telephone number(s) and e-mail address. Submissions by regular postal mail are strongly discouraged due to security precautions that may damage fragile contents. If necessary, send all postal mail to:

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To learn more about the Civil Engineer Corps and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, visit [www.navfac.navy.mil](http://www.navfac.navy.mil).

STAY NAVY. STAY SEABEE.



## MAIL CALL

*Seabee* Magazine:

I felt it was important to point out a technical error in the GWOT Update section in the Spring 07 issue of *Seabee* Magazine, in the article titled, "Seabees Repair Runway at Logistics Hub."

In the cutline next to the photo, the word "cement" is used twice when the material being discussed is actually concrete. Portland cement is a powder that when combined with sand, aggregate and water produces concrete in its plastic or "wet" state. After the wet concrete hydrates (i.e., dries) it hardens into a solid rigid material, which in the case of the article is a concrete runway. Portland cement, by itself, has minimal structural value.

Considering the professional expertise of the readership of *Seabee* Magazine,

good technical review of all articles is important.

For additional information, visit the Portland Cement Association website at [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org).

*Best regards,*  
CDR John J Sullivan Jr., CEC, USN (Ret.)  
Director, Federal Infrastructure Markets  
Portland Cement Association  
500 New Jersey Ave., N.W., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

*Seabee* Magazine:

Terrific magazine [Fall 2006]! It is a great issue for all to read on the Internet.

*Best regards,*  
Scott Williams  
Secretary/Treasurer  
MCB 2 Reunion Association  
Editor/Publisher, SEABEES Newsletter

Dear Editor,  
We are new subscribers to *Seabee* Magazine, [and have received] two issues — Summer and Fall 2006. Any chance of becoming bimonthly?

Great magazine!  
*Thank you.*  
Al Scinaro  
Suzanne Spirito  
Pupil Services Department  
Charles E. Brown Middle School  
125 Meadowbrook Rd.  
Newton, MA 02459

*Note: While the Seabee Magazine Team is encouraged by positive feedback, we plan to keep the publication on a quarterly schedule.*





“The MRAP program should be considered the highest priority Department of Defense acquisition program, and any and all options to accelerate the production and fielding of this capability to the theater should be identified, assessed and applied where feasible.”

— Defense Secretary Robert L. Gates, in a May 2 memo to the Army and Navy secretaries

**A** Seabee Convoy Security Team (CST) in the Al Anbar province of Iraq has added a robust mechanical feline to its repertoire of vehicle types.

The Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle (JERRV), better known by CSTs as “Cougar,” is the U.S. military’s newest response in the battle against roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq.

Different variations of the Cougar began arriving in Iraq in the late fall of 2004 as part of an accelerated Department of Defense acquisition program. Reports from the war-torn region said the heavy-weight trucks had saved many American lives. The armored, wheeled trucks feature a V-shaped bottom designed to deflect the

*By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Shane Montgomery  
30<sup>th</sup> NCR Public Affairs*

upward explosive power of roadside bombs that have accounted for the majority of U.S. casualties in Iraq.

Seabee CSTs traveling from Camp Fallujah were the first naval construction units to receive the new heavily armored vehicles, known to ward off fatal energy produced by the IEDs favored by insurgents.

“Not only are they safer, but they feel safer,” said Steelworker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jesus Llamas, a member of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28, one of two Seabees chosen to accompany the first two JERRVs from Port Hueneme, Calif., to Camp Fallujah. “The Cougars will help us better accomplish missions because we feel safe

in from the states and the rest will be shipped within a few months,” said Chief Construction Mechanic Mark Loegering, manager, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR Civil Engineer Support Equipment. “By August, we expect to have 60 JERRVs to replace our Humvees.”

According to Loegering, the \$700,000 machine seats up to eight plus one additional person in the turret. The plan is for the 40,000-pound JERRV to replace the low-to-the-ground, flat-bottom Humvee traditionally used as a convoy asset.

“This is another strong step in a direc-

**AL ANBAR  
SEABEES  
INTEGRATE**

# BIG CAT INTO CONVOY SECURITY TEAM

tion to change the course of this war forever\*,” said CAPT Kate Gregory, commodore for the 30<sup>th</sup> NCR. Gregory is responsible for providing combat construction for the Second Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) in the Al Anbar Province.

“Keeping our forces safe so that we can complete missions quickly and efficiently is key to our winning here in Iraq,” Gregory said. “These vehicles are proven safer and better capable to ensure our success as we support operations in this province.”

Seabees who have operated the vehicles admit they are a welcomed addition to the CSTs.

“I felt extremely safe traveling in the Cougar,” said Electronics Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Nicolle Dupepe, NMCB 28. “When you’re operating a vehicle designed specifically to survive an IED blast, you don’t mind traveling these roads.”

“These vehicles provide unmatched protection capabilities for combat engineers and EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

BU3 Marsha Helgerson, NMCB 4’s Convoy Security Element, mans the 240B 7.62mm Machine Gun in the top turret on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Armored Vehicle at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in May.

Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge





# ARMORED VEHICLES IMPROVE

# SEABEE SAFETY

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD



▲ MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED (MRAP) VEHICLE ▲



▲ HIGH-MOBILITY MULTIPURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE (HMMWV)



▲ MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT (MTVR) TRUCK ARMOR



▲ CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT (CME)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division (1NCD), working in conjunction with Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC), is aggressively pursuing more than \$100 million (this fiscal year alone) in contracts and sourcing specific Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE), both tactical convoy vehicles and select construction equipment, for up-armor solutions.

## MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED (MRAP) VEHICLE

With a V-shaped hull and raised chassis, this vehicle is specially designed to deflect bomb blasts, especially those resulting from the current IED threat. It is both a Command and Control vehicle for Convoy Security Teams, as well as a Crew Transport vehicle.

- ★ 1NCD has purchased over 100 MRAPs, of which 30 have been received in Iraq with an additional 30 in transit

## MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT (MTVR) TRUCK ARMOR

- ★ 1NCD and NFELC have delivered 50 Level I armored MTVR variants (cargo trucks and tractor trailers) to theater
- ★ Additional trucks are also being armored and are en-route to the CENTCOM AOR for Seabee use
- ★ Include both the cargo-carrying variant and the dump truck configuration

## HIGH-MOBILITY MULTIPURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE (HMMWV)

- ★ 20 Level II Armored HMMWVs have been delivered to the Seabee Readiness Groups in Gulfport and Port Hueneme for homeport training
- ★ Seabees are expected to receive an additional 60 Level I Armored HMMWVs in the next 60 days for use in the CENTCOM AOR, as well as other locations as required by the current threat environment

## CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT (CME)

- ★ 1NCD and NFELC are working to acquire armor kits for existing Seabee equipment to improve force protection for Seabees operating construction equipment outside of Forward Operating Bases in the CENTCOM theater
- ★ NFELC has been tracking new armor solutions through three separate actions, which in total are providing installed armor solutions on more than 60 pieces of construction equipment
- ★ To date, more than a dozen vehicle types have been completed, including excavators, front-end loaders, forklifts, water trucks and cranes; 15 of these vehicles are complete and due to arrive in theater immediately, and an additional 2 dozen are near completion or in the process of being delivered
- ★ An existing Army armoring facility in Arifjan, Kuwait, has been contracted to armor graders, rollers and bulldozers; this newly armored equipment has been or will soon be delivered to Seabees in the field

## Seabee Monster Garage Turns Marine Force Protection Idea into Reality

By EACS Jay Buermann, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR Public Affairs

In their own version of 'Monster Garage,' Seabees of the 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) provided the Second Marine Tank Battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> MTB) with an armor upgrade in May to help keep gunners safe during their operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

On a tank crew, the 'Loader' feeds ammunition into the machine gun and is often exposed to small arms fire from opposing forces. To stay safe, the Loader has to close the tank's access hatch. But if he does that, he can no longer do his job.

"[The new armor] lets us leave the hatch open," said Staff Sgt. Cesare Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> MTB. "This allows the Loader to stay in the fight."

"It will also help [protect us against] IED (Improvised Explosive Device) shrapnel,"

added Sgt. Brad Nevitt, 2<sup>nd</sup>

MTB, as he referred to the IEDs often placed in the road by insurgent forces.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> MTB, Marines Bravo Company, Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 6, realized this risk to the Loader was a critical issue when

they arrived in-country. The battalion held a series of brainstorming sessions and eventually settled on an idea they thought would provide some protection to the Loader.

The Seabees' heavy machine shop, more commonly referred to as the 'Monster Garage,' took 2<sup>nd</sup> MTB's idea of a protective shield, fine-tuned it and built four prototypes for installation.

"We took their base premise — the hinged windows — and had to find a way to put rectangular windows on a round frame," explained Steelworker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Philip Moran, who led the project for the Monster Garage. "We wanted it to be simple but effective, and meet the tank battalion's goals." >



## Rush War Order Pushes Maintenance Center Albany Shops

By Art Powell, MCLB Albany, Ga.

What do you do when one extra order increases your scheduled workflow for one month by more than 71 percent?

You "get 'er done!"

That's the situation Maintenance Center Albany (MCA) faced when the order came in to perform armor upgrades and repaint 23 Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements (MTVRs) for the Seabees.

It had to be done on top of the scheduled workflow of processing 32 Marine Corps MTVRs during the same month.

Management and workers at MCA rose to the challenge and 55 MTVRs were finished and shipped or scheduled to ship back to war zones during February.

When the vehicles arrived at MCA, they were first upgraded with air conditioning. From there, armor kits were installed and a sturdier suspension to support the extra weight was added.

Then it was off to the paint shop. The green paint on each of the massive vehicles had to be stripped by hand before the new tan paint could be applied. The armor/suspension work was performed in a shop with only one shift, so those workers put in 12-hour days to meet the need.

All Seabee vehicles required the armor/suspension upgrade, air conditioning and paint. Twenty-one were configured for cargo and two left MCA as troop carriers.

"The relationship between the Marine Corps and the Navy is vitally important," said Col. Kevin McCutcheon, commander, MCA. "This is well known [Department of Defense-] wide. It's in our ethos. The Navy leveraging our vehicle-armoring efforts to safeguard its construction battalions is simply another example of the vitality of the Navy-Marine Corps Team."



# GWOT UPDATE

## Seabees Build Quality of Life Improvements in Baharia

NMCB 28

By EO2 (SCW) Lori Roberts, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR Public Affairs

Naval Reservists with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28, Delta Company, finished building Southwest Asia (SWA) huts for and with the Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, at Baharia near Fallujah earlier this year.

SWA huts are pre-constructed living spaces, shipped to the building site and put together in a short amount of time. The huts arrive in a kit and are partially constructed at NMCB 28's Builder's Shop at Camp Fallujah by one crew and then transported to the Army camp at Baharia for complete assembly by a second team of Seabees and Soldiers.

"What would take days if we were building from scratch takes only hours working with these pre-fab huts," said Chief Steelworker Gerald Ramaeker, project manager. "Unlike in the civilian world, where you

usually have weeks to plan for a project like this, the biggest credit to the Seabees is our ability to change and adapt on a minute-by-minute basis, because planning often happens while the job is already in motion."

Ramaeker was impressed by his crew, which completed eight SWA huts in 12 days. The job included more than construction. With the buildings being constructed at two different sites, several Seabees were tasked with loading and moving walls, floors and trusses from one site to the next.

Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class DeWayne Ruff spent several days loading lumber and parts on trucks, which would then be carried to their final destination.

"I learned so much," Ruff said. "It was my first time to use a forklift, balance a load and strap it down. I'll never call the movers

again."

While other branches of the military work with the Iraqis to eliminate the insurgency here, Seabees are in their midst repairing and rebuilding the country's roads and buildings.

"We're glad to be doing what we're doing," said Construction Electrician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Sean Phelan. "The work gives us a great sense of pride, and it gives us a chance to hone our skills and bring the benefits home to our civilian jobs."

LT Ivan Cavenall, officer in charge of NMCB 28 Delta Company at Camp Knott, was pleased with the leadership among all three branches involved.

"The opportunity to work with our fellow Marines and Soldiers has been great," Cavenall said.

## Seabees Build Command Outpost in Al Anbar Province

NMCB 28

By LT Jeffery Moore and LT James Barlow, NMCB 28 Public Affairs

Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 finished construction of a combat outpost for Marine Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 2 and Weapons Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines (W/1/2) in Iraq's Al Anbar Province in late April.

When the Marines asked for help, NMCB 28 was ready to respond. These combat outposts, or 'COPs' as they are better known, help bring stability to regions plagued by Iraqi insurgents. They serve as a staging point for regular patrols and weapons cache sweeps, and allow the Marines to respond quickly to any situation that might arise. COPs also afford Marines the ability to eat, sleep and work in relative safety.

COPs are usually constructed by Marine Combat Engineering Battalions, but due to resource limitations at the time, NMCB 28 got the call to support. Adding to the uniqueness of this mission was the fact that the Seabees were only given 48 hours to plan and stage prior to the start of the mission.

NMCB 28 pulled together a detachment of 39 personnel for the mission, led by LT Mike Wilkinson, CEC. Within those 48 hours they prepared a camp layout, pulled 12 truckloads of material together, staged 24 pieces of equipment and began the mission.

"A lot of planning goes into this type of operation," said Wilkinson. "NMCB 28 personnel from all departments and companies pulled together to help get us out to the project site."

Arriving at the site, now called COP Timberwolf, Marines provided security and

commenced offensive operations while the Seabees wasted no time getting to work establishing a camp perimeter and performing berming operations.

According to Wilkinson, the location was ideal from a security aspect, but ground conditions made it difficult for construction.

"We had to change the camp layout a few times to adjust for rock deposits that made it impossible to excavate or do any grading and leveling," he said.

As force protection construction was completed, the Seabees' focus shifted to quality of life issues including berthing and other relative creature comforts. Marine Capt. Adan Maldonado, RCT 2's engineering officer, commented that NMCB 28 "provided the warfighter with what was needed to succeed, sometimes even before we anticipated that we needed it."

NMCB 28's Commanding Officer, CDR Craig Scharton, knows projects such as COP Timberwolf are a prime example of what Seabees were designed to do.

"The construction of combat outposts is a quintessential way in which our Seabees are supporting the warfighter," Scharton said. "In the case of COP Timberwolf, we have gone from basically a bare spot on the ground to a fortified and hardened base camp in a short time period."

"This allows the Marines to maintain a presence and help promote law and order in a forward area, while having a relatively secure place to live with at least a minimal amount of creature comforts for health and welfare," he added.

NMCB 4

## Ramadi

CM3 (SW) Sean Kelly, NMCB 4, performs preventive maintenance on a five-ton truck at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in April.

Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge



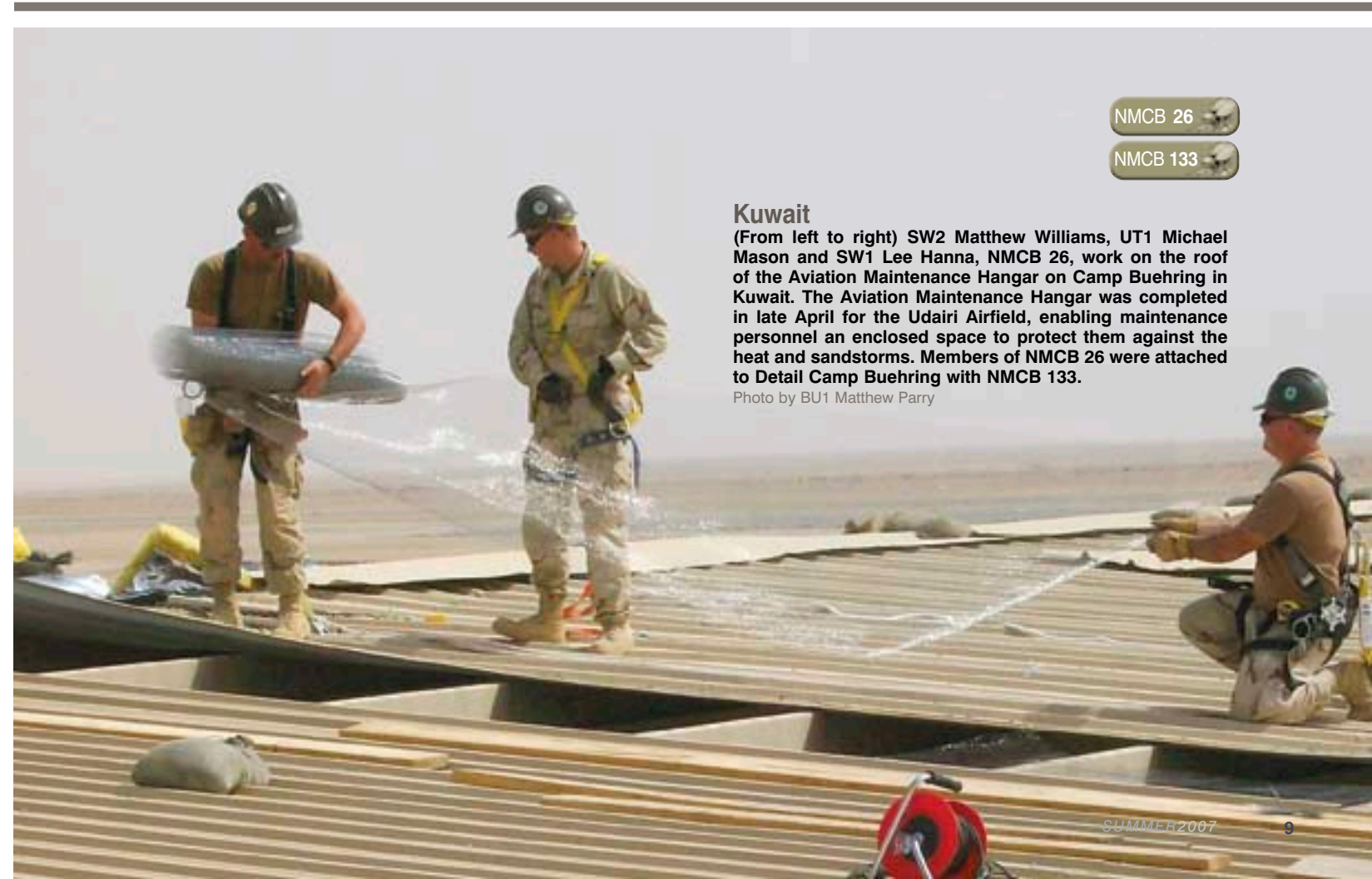
NMCB 26

NMCB 133

## Kuwait

(From left to right) SW2 Matthew Williams, UT1 Michael Mason and SW1 Lee Hanna, NMCB 26, work on the roof of the Aviation Maintenance Hangar on Camp Buehring in Kuwait. The Aviation Maintenance Hangar was completed in late April for the Udairi Airfield, enabling maintenance personnel an enclosed space to protect them against the heat and sandstorms. Members of NMCB 26 were attached to Detail Camp Buehring with NMCB 133.

Photo by BU1 Matthew Parry







A Band of Sisters: Female Seabees Help Win the Hearts and Minds of Iraqi People

By YN2 Judith Owen, NMCB 28 Public Affairs

NMCB 28

Three female Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28, along with women from other branches of the military, have become the first to participate in a regional program named *Lioness*, perhaps an unconventional but necessary step to winning the war in Iraq.

The *Lioness* Program was born out of a need to help make Iraqi women feel more comfortable during check point searches. Searching the local women had proved difficult since the Muslim culture dictates that men are not to touch or look at women they don't know.

"These women have volunteered to execute this difficult mission because they recognize the importance of what the *Lioness* Program is trying to achieve," said CAPT Kate Gregory, commodore for the 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), who is responsible for all Seabee personnel in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. "Through their personal interaction with the people of Iraq, they help win the hearts and minds of the country. All of the women from each branch of service who volunteered for this program should feel proud that their accomplishments are contributing to our overall success in this fight."

To strengthen the fight on the war, *Lioness* was implemented at tactical control points along the Iraqi borders and other strategic locations to stop insurgents from using female smugglers for transporting funds or weapons in support of actions against Coalition Forces. The program was designed to hinder those efforts by having female service members search Arab females.

Personnel Specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Sandra Ersoff, a *Lioness* volunteer who served in the Haditha area of Iraq, said her experience with the Muslim women was usually very positive.

"I found the Iraqi women to be friendly and understanding of the circumstances," Ersoff said. "Although some women were reserved, I exchanged greetings and smiles with the majority. Like mothers around the world, Iraqi women were receptive to my interaction with their children. I truly believe my presence had a positive effect on the female community of Haditha."

Each *Lioness* Task Force consists of a 30- to 45-day rotation that provides female volunteers of different military branches and various occupations the opportunity to train and work with the Marine infantry force. The training curriculum consists of a Marine

Corps Martial Arts Program refresher course, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) identification, Rules of Engagement, Cultural Familiarization, Search Techniques and other military instruction. In addition, the participants are familiarized with and afforded the opportunity to train with various weapons.

Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brittany Cummins, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron (MWHS), understands the value, professionalism and caring female service members bring to this effort.

"This is definitely an extremely important mission," Cummins said. "We can't win the hearts and minds if we don't show respect for the culture."

"These women of NMCB 28 have stepped up to offer their skills and abilities to a critical part of the security mission," said CDR Craig Scharton, commanding officer of NMCB 28. "Their senior levels of experience and maturity were critical factors to ensuring success in a job that requires situational awareness, cultural sensitivity and keen judgment."

The *Lioness* Program is facilitated by Marine Regimental Combat Team 2, deployed with the Secondary Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

3<sup>rd</sup> NCR Sets Milestones on Deployment

NMCB 18

NMCB 25

NMCB 40

NMCB 74

The 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR moniker is "The Leaders." During its second mobilization to Iraq, the regiment lived up to its name.

The regiment provided extensive general engineering and construction support, as well as comprehensive construction material procurement and distribution, for 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD) during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 and 06-08. Through the efforts of their dedicated subordinate units, the Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 18, 25, 40 and 74, as well as the Soldiers from the 46<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion (ECB) (Heavy), the 321<sup>st</sup> Engineering Battalion, and the Marines from the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support

(MNF-W). Seabee Military Training Teams were formed and sent to the Iraqi Army to train its engineers in basic construction skills. In addition to this effort, the regiment formed a 'Monster Garage' at Camp Fallujah, a team of Seabees utilizing skills and ingenuity to implement a variety of concepts in the Counter-IED fight.

"Thanks to you and your magnificent men," remarked Col. George Bristol, commanding officer, to 1<sup>st</sup> MEF (Marine Expeditionary Force) Headquarters Group (Forward). "You are on my team in any clime and place. If the CNO would offer me an aircraft carrier, a submarine or a squad of Seabees — the choice for me is easy."

The need for adequate facilities to support sustainment and security of forces was

"If the CNO would offer me an aircraft carrier, a submarine or a squad of Seabees — the choice for me is easy."

— Col. George Bristol, Commanding Officer, I MHG (FWD)

Battalion (ESB) provided a myriad of support to Iraqi Security Force (ISF) and Coalition Force (CF) basing, convoy security operations, general engineering and mobility support. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR planned and executed more than 200,000 man-days of new construction and convoy security missions in support of stabilizing and securing Iraq.

"The Seabees are undoubtedly a well-led and highly proficient 'Can Do' group of professionals," said Col. B.D. Beaudreault, commanding officer of the 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC). "I would like to extend our deepest thanks to our brothers-in-arms, our fellow soldiers of the sea. The 15<sup>th</sup> MEU looks forward to the opportunity to serve alongside you in the future."

The 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR initiated, developed and implemented two successful new programs during tenure in Multi National Force – West

critical in meeting the objectives of turning over control of the Al Anbar Province to Iraqi control. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR provided designs, bills of material, construction materials and construction of contingency operating posts and Iraqi Security Force bases along the Euphrates River from Fallujah to the Syrian border. Additional engineering support was provided in Ar Ramadi for Coalition and Iraqi Security Force camps, conducting repairs, reconstruction and retrofit of existing military facilities.

In addition to the contingency operating posts, the overall goal of establishing an ISF presence throughout the Al Anbar Province required the construction of 19 combat outposts and base camps to support thousands of ISF troops throughout the province. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR was at the tip of the spear providing designs, Class IV materials and construction on the necessary infrastructure in direct support of this initiative.

By YN2 Class Monte L. Tolar, 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR

"The achievement of the Soldiers, Marines, and Seabees attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR is truly remarkable" said CAPT R. Scott Newman, commodore of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NCR. "Eight months ago we established the operating philosophy of urgency. We said then that we could make a difference. We did."

3<sup>RD</sup> NCR DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS

3D MARINE AIR WING (FORWARD) SUPPORT

Ensured the continuity of mission execution for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (For-ward) by providing maintenance and repair to critical runways in Taqqadum and Al Asad; successfully delivered airfield construction and repairs, overcoming numerous challenges in material quality and logistics; completed Al Asad Joint Repair project, in addition to the 4,000+ cubic meter concrete effort on Runway 30L on Al Taqqadum (opened to traffic in February 2007).

CONVOY SECURITY TEAMS

Operated four Convoy Security Teams simultaneously, completing convoy security missions throughout the Al Anbar Province; utilized extensively as security escorts for Class IV materials, equipment deliveries and security escort missions.

MSR/ASR ASSESSMENTS AND REPAIRS

Maintained the Main Supply Routes (MSR) and Alternate Supply Routes (ASR), critical to the execution of ground operations and safety of the troops conducting the missions; having routine and emergency repair responsibilities for the entire MNF-W area of operations, the regiment ensured these critical lines of communications remained open and serviceable.

GENERAL ENGINEER SUPPORT

Through quality construction and project management, the regiment performed more than 220 missions, including concrete maintenance pads, force protection, Entry Control Point (ECP) improvements, guard towers, electrical system assessments and repairs, and clam shelter construction.

Marines and Sailors attending the *Lioness* Program aboard Al Asad, Iraq, receive a refresher course in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program in late March.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. James R. Richardson







Seabees Transform Mud Lakes to Gravel Lots at Camp Ramadi

NMCB 4

By Chaplain (LT) Peter N. Ott, NMCB 4 Public Affairs

What had been large lakes of mud due to a recent rainstorm are now gravel parking lots for the Camp Ramadi dining facility and exchange, thanks to the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, who completed the work in late April.

Five Seabees graded the parking lots. A slope was made between the lots to create a drainage ditch which would move running water into collection ponds dug out at either end. Two culverts were placed to assist with the runoff. Before placing the gravel, the crew, with help from the Army's 1-3 Brigade Troops Battalion (1-3 BTB), rolled barriers across the lots to keep the gravel from sinking into the mud during future rainstorms.

As dump trucks full of gravel rolled in, NMCB 4 Seabees worked quickly to spread the gravel and complete the project.

"It's always a pleasure working with the Seabees. They work too hard for their own good," said Staff Sgt. Julian Nicholson, 1-3 BTB, who oversees all projects on base for the Camp Ramadi Mayor's Cell. "NMCB 4 has come on board ready to roll. We're glad to have their help."

A line of Humvees sat parked on the gravel the day after NMCB 4 finished the lots, and Soldiers and Marines walked to and from the dining facility and exchange without worrying about keeping the mud off their boots. NMCB 4 is definitely improving the quality of life at Camp Ramadi.

"I'm glad to be out of homeport and actually doing my job, said Equipment Operator Constructionman Cordello Jordan, who helped complete the project for NMCB 4. "This is what I get paid for. I'm loving it!"

(Top right) EOCN Helen Hughlett (far right), NMCB 4, works with Iraqi civilians on a newly constructed parking lot for the Camp Ramadi dining facility and exchange.

(Right) EO2 (SCW) Hayden Coleman, NMCB 4, operates a grader, spreading gravel on a parking lot-in-progress at Camp Ramadi in Iraq.

Photos by MC2 (AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge



NMCBs 26 and 133 Ramp Up Mail Delivery to U.S. Troops

NMCB 26

NMCB 133

Seabees from NMCBs 26 and 133 place concrete to create a ramp at the post office on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The ramp will aid postal workers in speeding the delivery of mail to the troops. Pictured (from left to right) are: UT2 William Treat, NMCB 133, settling concrete with a concrete vibrator as BUCN Jesse Johnson, NMCB 133, directs the concrete pump truck hose in order to properly place the wet concrete; BU3 James Pulfer, NMCB 26, controls the vibrator to settle the concrete; the project crew leader, BU3 Ryan Laney, NMCB 133, directs his crew during the placement as BUCN Ryan Canny, NMCB 133, uses a concrete rake to push freshly placed concrete into place to be leveled.

Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo

LCDR Suzanne Fiori (right), project supervisor for NAVFAC's Kuwait-based Field Engineering Team, congratulates crewleader BU3 Ryan Laney, NMCB 133, for a job well done on the new post office ramp on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 'Bees of NMCBs 26 and 133 completed the ramp in just over a month.

Photo by MC3 Jessica A. Mclver





## NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic CEC Officer Receives Purple Heart

By Robin Willis, Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic

Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) Officer LT Fred Kelly was awarded the Purple Heart by RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Atlantic, in a ceremony on January 25. Kelly, a project engineer at NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic's Public Works Department in Portsmouth (Norfolk Naval Shipyard), Va., received the medal after being wounded in action while on his Individual Augmentee (IA) assignment as a Base Engineer on the Provisional Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan.

Kelly was in a convoy conducting a mission to check a new site for the Construction Training Trades Center in Jalalabad City in October 2005 when attacked. As the three-vehicle convoy was approaching the outskirts of town and about to cross a bridge, Kelly's vehicle was hit by an IED hidden in the rear wheel of a bicycle. Smoke and fire engulfed the vehicle for a brief period. Kelly was temporarily deafened by the blast and received a



**RADM Richard E. Cellon (right), Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Atlantic, presents CEC Officer LT Fred Kelly with the Purple Heart in a ceremony on January 25.**

Photo by John Land

cut under his eye. There were no American casualties, but five local Afghans were injured, two seriously, and one 14-year-old boy was killed.

"The function of the Naval Construction Force, our Seabees and CEC Officers on In-

## Purple Heart



dividual Augmentee assignments, is held in high esteem by the Department of the Navy, and, beyond that, the Department of Defense," said Cellon.

He also reminded those in attendance that the Purple Heart is the nation's oldest military award, introduced by George Washington in 1782 as a 'Badge of Military Merit' and re-introduced, after 150 years of being forgotten, by General Douglas MacArthur in February 1932, out of respect for George Washington's memory and military achievements.

"It's an honor and privilege to receive this award," said Kelly. "I'm thankful for my life and the lives of all those in my convoy. All in all, it was a rewarding experience in Afghanistan. I wouldn't change anything."



**EOCN (SCW) Crystal Epling, NMCB 4, operates a front-end loader during the groundbreaking of the new Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, Calif. Scheduled to open in 2009, the 35,000-square-foot museum will be a world-class facility dedicated to commemorating the accomplishments of the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers.**

Photo by MC2 Jason R. Williams

## Charles V. Komppa Wing Dedicated at Navy Operational Support Center Billings

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18 salute as Delisa Komppa (center right), wife of fallen Electrician's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charles V. Komppa, escorted by Utilitiesman 1<sup>st</sup> Class J Williamson (center left), enters Navy Operational Support Center Billings, Mont., for the first time after the dedication ceremony. Komppa was killed in action on October 25, 2006, while serving in Iraq's western Al Anbar Province. Williamson was with Komppa when he died, and volunteered to return and finish the mission the pair had started.

U.S. Navy photo



Submitted by Naval Historical Center Public Affairs

The Seabees' "Can Do!" legacy was officially honored in March during a groundbreaking ceremony in Port Hueneme, Calif., for the new U.S. Navy Seabee Museum.

Scheduled to open in 2009, the 35,000-square-foot museum will be a world-class facility dedicated to honoring and commemorating the extraordinary accomplishments of the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers.

Held on the new museum site, the groundbreaking was accomplished in genuine Seabee-style by setting aside the traditional golden shovel and, instead, literally breaking the ground with a front-end loader operated by Equipment Operator Constructionman (SCW) Crystal Epling, who recently returned from serving in Iraq with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4.

The legendary image of a Seabee driving a bulldozer created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and excitement for the hundreds of invited guests, including local government officials, members of the Board of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, donors to the capital fundraising campaign, local business and community leaders, and Seabee veterans.

Established in 1947, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum is the second oldest of 12 official U.S. Navy museums, all of which are operated and maintained by the Naval Historical Center.

The current Seabee Museum has been located in the same Quonset huts for more than 50 years. While the facility provides nostalgia for many Seabees, since it was never designed for or intended to be a museum and lacks proper environmental controls, the entire collection is in constant danger of loss or damage.

## Seabee Museum Groundbreaking Shows "Can Do" Spirit

In a valiant effort to preserve the Seabee "Can Do!" legacy, retired RADM Benjamin Montoya led the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation in a \$12 million capital fundraising campaign in 2001 to construct a new, state-of-the-art museum facility complete with appropriate storage and updated exhibitions.

The new museum will feature comprehensive exhibits, as well as a retail shop, meeting space, memorial garden, and an archive which will house all of the operational records of the Seabees since World War II. There are also plans to develop extensive outreach programs to educate students and the public about the Builder Warriors.

In addition, the new facility will be located outside the gate in Ventura County, Calif., making it more easily accessible to all members of the community.

"The Seabee Museum is a true gem among the Navy's museums, with a great collection of artifacts, and an expert and knowledgeable staff," said CDR Jeremy Gillespie, director of Navy Museums. "The new U.S. Navy Seabee Museum facility will allow the Navy to showcase the Seabee story as it deserves to be told for the education and benefit of both our Sailors and the American public."





U.S. Navy photo

### RDML Garcia Tapped for Second Star

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced in March that President George W. Bush has nominated **RDML Albert Garcia III, CEC, USN**, for appointment to the grade of rear admiral. Following Senate confirmation, Garcia will receive his second star

in an official ceremony later this year.

RDML Garcia has served as deputy commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division, Norfolk, Va., since August 2005. Prior to this assignment, Garcia was recalled in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he commanded Task Force Charlie of the MEF Engineering Group and later served as the deputy commander of the MEF Engineering Group in Iraq. In 2004, he assumed responsibility for consolidating several reserve augment units into a new command, NAVFAC Contingency OICC.



U.S. Navy photo

### CAPT Giorgione Selected for Flag

In April, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced that President George W. Bush nominated **CAPT Michael A. Giorgione, CEC, USN**, for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Following Senate confirmation, Giorgione will receive his first star in an official ceremony later this year.

CAPT Giorgione recently relieved RDML Christopher J. Mossey as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific on June 8 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Giorgione was NAVFAC Pacific's vice commander from 2003 to 2004.

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

### RADM Cellon Relieves RADM Phillips

By Daryl Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD

**Rear Admiral Richard E. Cellon, CEC, USN**, relieved **Rear Admiral Robert L. Phillips, CEC, USN**, as commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division on June 29 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va. Rear Adm. Phillips has commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division since November 4, 2004, and retired during the ceremony following 32 years of service with the U.S. Navy.

RADM Cellon previously served as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Atlantic, in Norfolk, Va. His other command tours included commander, NAVFAC, Pacific, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from 2002 to 2003; commander, NAVFAC, Southern Division in Charleston, S.C., from 2000 to 2002; Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 from 1996 to 1998; and Naval Support Facility Thurmont, Md. (Camp David) from 1994 to 1996.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., RADM Cellon is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He holds master's degrees from the University of Florida (Civil Engineering), and the Naval War College (National Security and Strategic Studies).



U.S. Navy photo

*Note: A detailed article on the change of command will appear in the next issue of Seabee Magazine.*



## 165 Years and Counting

On August 31, 1842, the Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks (BuDocks), under the leadership of Captain Lewis Warrington with six civilian employees, administered public works at seven Navy yards along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

Fast forward 165 years as BuDocks is now the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), one of five Navy Systems Commands reporting to the Chief of Naval Operations. Under the leadership of Rear Admiral Greg Shear, Chief of Civil Engineers, NAVFAC has more than 75 locations worldwide on installations throughout the United States, Europe, Southwest Asia and the Far East. NAVFAC is comprised of a team of 15,000 military, civilian and contractor

personnel — planners, engineers, architects, contract specialists and many other highly trained professionals — along with unified Commanders and Department of Defense agencies. Strategic partners include the Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC), Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) and United States Marine Corps (USMC).

Marking its 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 31, 2007, NAVFAC's role in our country's defense of freedom continues to stand as a beacon of pride for people around the globe. Take a few moments and step into NAVFAC's history. This proud legacy not only strengthens commitment and resolve, it paves the way for an even greater and more dynamic future.

TURN OF THE CENTURY	<b>August 31, 1842</b> Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks (BuDocks) established, Washington, D.C.	<b>1942</b> Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, creates the Naval Construction Force, better known as the Seabees; led by Reserve CEC officers, 325,000 Seabees build bases on six continents and at locations throughout the Pacific during World War II; at war's end, shore establishment is worth at least \$6.5 billion	<b>1988-1995</b> Numerous installations are slated for disestablishment through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program; NAVFAC manages BRAC Program for the Navy and Marine Corps
	<b>1867</b> Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) established	<b>1950s</b> During the Korean conflict, CEC officers and Seabees build bases throughout the Pacific to support United Nations troops	<b>2003</b> The U.S. invasion of Iraq, along with Coalition Forces, signals the start of the Global War on Terror, and marks yet another chapter in NAVFAC's rich history of military support
	<b>Late 1800s</b> Navy yards developed on the Pacific Coast at Mare Island, Calif., and Puget Sound, Wash.	<b>Mid-1960s</b> BuDocks is formally designated as the contract construction agent in Southeast Asia for the Vietnam War	<b>October 2003</b> Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) is established
	<b>1911</b> U.S. Congress places design and construction of all naval shore stations under BuDocks control	<b>May 1966</b> The Bureau of Yards and Docks is renamed Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)	<b>2004</b> NAVFAC transforms its organizational structure to better support the Navy and Marine Corps, and other federal clients
	<b>1916-1918</b> BuDocks expends \$347 million for public works related to World War I efforts, including 35 naval training stations, submarine bases and naval air stations	<b>1970s</b> NAVFAC consolidates 13 engineering field divisions into six, and improves personnel facilities to support all-volunteer Navy, environmental protection and energy conservation	<b>2005</b> NAVFAC provides extensive support following Hurricane Katrina, the worst U.S. natural disaster to date, taking close to 1,850 lives and causing more than \$81 billion in damage along the U.S. Gulf Coast
1940s – 1980s	<b>1920s-30s</b> Shore establishment shrinks, CEC numbers greatly reduced	<b>1980s</b> Navy Fleet increases lead to more shore facilities for the new ships, translating to more construction work for NAVFAC; between fiscal years 1982 and 1985, Congress appropriates more than \$5 billion for Navy military construction	<b>PRESENT DAY</b>
	<b>1940-1945</b> Following the attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), Navy's military construction program explodes to global proportions, expanding far beyond continental United States and prewar possessions to Europe, North Africa, Asia and the Pacific		<b>August 31, 2007</b> NAVFAC celebrates its 165 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For more information on NAVFAC, view the Command video at <https://portal.navy.mil/go/newemployees>.



# Battalion Updates:

## SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

“If you ask a **Navy Seabee** serving in Joint Task Force Horn of Africa [or on any humanitarian mission] what it is he or she is building, the answer might surprise you...the Seabees would tell you they are **building friendships**. They are **building trust**...Trust is essential...to all our missions all **around the globe**. In the Navy, it’s a big part of who we are. It’s what we do.”

— ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations  
*“Sailors Building Trust, One Person At A Time,” The Hill, May 23, 2007*

ACB 1

## Seabees in Guatemala

Earlier this year, Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1 participated in Humanitarian Support Over The Shore (HSOTS) 2007, a simulated disaster relief assistance response involving transportation of equipment from two engineer task forces over-the-sea to Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. Approximately 1,300 U.S. servicemen and women, representing the Navy, Army, National Guard and Reserve forces, participated in HSOTS.

As a complement to HSOTS, Project Handclasp provided humanitarian outreach efforts in the region. Seabees from ACB 1, along with service members from Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 4, Naval Beach Group 1, Assault Craft Unit 1, Beach Master Unit 1, and the 348<sup>th</sup> Army Battalion, collected and delivered materials and supplies to Guatemalan schools, orphanages and clinics. Seabees performed their trademark construction services in local villages and surrounding areas benefiting much of the population, and winning the hearts, minds and trust of the people of Guatemala.



(Left, top to bottom)  
 CE3 Kyle Spry, ACB 1, gives a Seabee-style piggyback ride to a Guatemalan child in between projects in the local area.  
 Photo by YN3 Jessica Bidwell

Students of Escuela Maria del Socorro de Arellano say the Guatemalan pledge of allegiance during a donation ceremony in Puerto San Jose.  
 Photo by MC3 Brian Morales

BU3 Jeremy Morgan, ACB 1, nails a fencing board for Escuela Maria del Socorro de Arellano in San Jose, Guatemala, one of five elementary schools visited by service members who participated in Project Handclasp during HSOTS 2007.  
 Photo by MC3 Brian Morales

(Above) Seabees from ACB 1 join together to demolish a structure that was no longer needed on the grounds of an orphanage. Seabees saved the orphanage \$10,000 in demolition cost during HSOTS.  
 Photo by YN3 Jessica Bidwell

(Opposite) Chaplain Joseph Roach, ACB 1, hands out candy to children at Hogar Miguel Magone in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Hogar Miguel Magone is one of 14 sites visited by Seabees and other service members who participated in HSOTS 2007.  
 Photo by MC3 Brian Morales



# Seabees in Kuwait



EO1 Jonathan Conner (left) and his brother, EO2 Robert Conner, are both assigned to NMCB 26, and are deployed together at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

Photo by MC3 Jessica A. McIver

## Brothers in Arms

By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133

**NMCB 26** Imagine having your family's support every day you serve in the Navy. Though many Sailors have that, few enjoy that support in close quarters while deployed.

Equipment Operator 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Robert Conner and his brother, Equipment Operator 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jonathan Conner, shared the experience during their recent six-month deployment to Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

The brothers from Alliance, Ohio, are assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 26.

Since NMCB 26 is a reserve battalion where assignments are based on geography, it was easy for both to be assigned to the same unit.

Robert served on active duty in the Navy from 1990-93 as a Gunner's Mate striker, and participated in Operation Desert Shield.

"It has been a dream of ours to deploy together since I left for Desert Shield," Robert said.

Robert, two years older than Jonathan, talked his younger brother into joining a reserve battalion with him in 2000.

"Joining gave me a good reason to visit him [Robert]," Jonathan said, who lives 160 miles away from his brother when they aren't mobilized.

"It's awesome [having my brother with me on deployment]," Robert said. "Other than my wife, John is my best friend."

This is the first time the Conner brothers deployed at the same time to the same location. The siblings previously traveled separately to Spain, with Jonathan mobilizing in 2001 and Robert following in 2002.

"I think having my brother around for deployment makes it easier," John commented. "You always have someone who is there for you."

Robert is ready to be there for his brother whenever Jonathan might need him.

"He's better looking," Robert joked, "but I've got the brains."

## Tragedy Turns Trainers into Heroes

**NMCB 133** At approximately 5:30 a.m. on March 14, five members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 were en route to the Udari range in Kuwait for a training exercise when they came upon the scene of a horrific traffic accident. The accident, involving two 20-passenger vans and a four-door Nissan truck, happened only moments before the Seabees' arrival.

"The air was still full of dust," said Gunnery Sgt. Tom McCarty, Military Advisor to NMCB 133.

Led by McCarty, NMCB 133 personnel responded immediately with medical care and on-scene organization. McCarty proudly stated, "Everywhere you looked, NMCB 133 folks were there. They were cutting bandages, hooking up IVs and bringing in MEDEVAC choppers to get the seriously injured to the hospitals."

While McCarty ensured emergency services were contacted, Hospitalman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charlotte Bethea immediately began assessing casualties and creating a Casualty Collection Point. With assistance from Utilitiesman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Kelly Caponigro, Bethea began bandaging the injured and administering IVs as needed.

"I was helping Doc [Bethea] as best I could with bandages and helping cut clothing away from the injured," Caponigro said. "We were moving from body to body so fast, that I had to go back and retrieve supplies we may have left at the last [patient]. I was staying so busy that I couldn't react to what was truly going on."

The number of casualties was beyond the medical supply capabilities of the five responders, but as Seabees "Can Do," they adapted to the situation.

Bethea recalls how appreciative the injured were of their efforts. "I remember one of the men saying, 'Thank you, Soldier, thank you, Soldier.' Even with our lack of supplies, he was thankful that we were doing what we could for him," Bethea said.

When McCarty discovered two men pinned beneath one of the passenger vans, he worked with Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Tyler Morgan and Builder Constructionman Nicholas Condon to rescue the men. Overcoming the language barrier, the rescuers successfully

organized the uninjured survivors to lift the van, allowing Morgan, Condon and McCarty to pull the two severely injured men to safety. Once the victims were clear of the wreckage, Bethea and Caponigro immediately began applying bandages and tourniquets.

At this point, a third victim was discov-

ered trapped inside the overturned van. After McCarty found he could not safely move the victim through the front window, Morgan and Condon smashed the rear window, crawled in and carried him from the vehicle.

As the sun rose, the Nissan truck was discovered a short distance away with seven men still trapped inside. By this point, approximately 30 civilians had arrived on the scene to assist the rescuers in freeing the men from the truck; after several attempts, they were freed using the Jaws of Life.



Colonel John S. Alexander (far right), USA, Commander, ASG Kuwait, presents the Army Commendation Medal to five NMCB 133 Seabees stationed at Camp Moreell, Kuwait, for their efforts in providing emergency medical assistance to civilian workers who were severely injured in an automobile accident. Pictured (from left to right) are Gunnery Sgt. Tom McCarty, HM1 Charlotte Bethea, UT2 Kelly Caponigro, BU2 Tyler Morgan and BUCN Nicholas Condon.

Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo

After a time with McCarty and the four Seabees as the only care providers on the scene, members of Camp Beuhring's Emergency Fire

they thought we were medics," McCarty said. "This was because we were all so calm and collected. I was really proud of them."

Upon the MEDEVAC choppers' arrival, NMCB 133 coordinated with the crew chiefs and rescue team to load nine of the most seriously injured victims.

Reflecting on Seabee readiness and the team effort so evident during the rescue, Bethea commented, "More than anything else, I am so proud of the Seabees who were there. They stepped up and did whatever was asked of them without a second thought or hesitation."

By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133



## Seabee Divers Return from the Philippines

**UCT 2** Seabees from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 Air Detachment Bravo returned from a two-month deployment to the Republic of the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). While in the Philippines, they completed construction tasking for the Joint Special Operations Task Force — Philippines (JSOTF-P), Naval Special Warfare Group (NSWG) and Exercise Balikatan 2007.

While deployed, UCT 2 Seabees constructed critical waterfront facilities to aid and assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Special Operations Forces in ongoing counter-terrorism operations. The largest project was a 70' x 16' concrete boat ramp constructed off an existing pier structure. The boat ramp will allow AFP, JSOTF-P and NSWG to execute their full mission capabilities by being able to launch and recover several different types of marine craft from an isolated location in the Philippine Sulu Archipelago. Executed concurrently with the boat ramp project was a Mark-V Special Operations Craft mooring system. The Mark-V is a light-weight and



**CE1 (SCW/DV) Adam Winters (right) hands UT2 (SCW/DV) Paul Oemish a rigging line for the installation of concrete mats during construction of the boat ramp by UCT 2 in the Philippines.**

U.S. Navy photo

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance/Civil Military Operations (HCA/CMO), and Field Training Exercise (FTX). The exercise fosters interoperability and enhances the AFP counter-terrorism capabilities. The exercise reinforces USPACOM Theater Security Cooperation Program (TSCP) goals and objectives, and ensures participation/integration of non-governmental organizations in the execution of CMO activities. The 2007 war games scenarios focused on naval threats, including ship hijackings and piracy, and cross-border attacks by Islamic extremists.

During the Exercise, UCT 2 participated in both CMO projects, and advanced weapons and military tactics training sessions. The CMO projects consisted of several school renovations to help the local community by improving their learning environments. They worked shoulder-to-shoulder with other AFP personnel, and taught them not only how to build and work with tools, but how to better use their own local materials and equipment. The weapons training sessions helped the AFP to better understand their weapons and how to better

employ them while moving and shooting in a tactical situation.

"It turned out to be a great deployment," said Steelworker Chief (SCW/DV) Brian Oliver. "We did some really good construction work in an interesting part of the world. It's something that all of us were really proud to be a part of."

The projects were very unique for the Command in many different ways. First and foremost, the majority of the design work for the boat ramp and mooring system was performed by UCT 2. After many discussions with NSWG and JSOTF-P, the Command formulated a solid set of construction drawings and specifications for the project. Another unique aspect of the deployment was that almost half of the construction projects were above the water line and on dry land. This reiterates that the Underwater Construction Technicians are Seabees first, but also bring to the fight that combined capability of building and diving. They can build and build well, above and below the water line.

"It's great to do a variety of work," said Construction Electrician 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW/DV) Adam Winters. "We were able to do some diving work, but surprisingly the CMO work turned out to be my favorite. It was not only great to get back into my rate a little more, but also have the satisfaction of seeing the kids."

By UCT 2 Public Affairs

## Seabees and Belize Soldiers Build a Better Future

By LTJG Paul McCord, NMCB 133

**NMCB 133** In two remote villages in Belize, Seabees from NMCB 133 are working hand-in-hand with combat engineers assigned to the Belize Defense Force (BDF). The Joint Task Force (JTF) operation provides humanitarian aid to economically challenged areas of Belize, specifically building six schools, and conducting dental and medical exercises for local communities.

The BDF, headed by Brig. Gen. Lloyd Gillett, plays a key role in supporting the mission.

"At every project site we have eight BDF combat engineers assisting with the building program, but we also have BDF providing security at the different sites," Gillett said. "In addition, we use it as an opportunity to train BDF soldiers in new building techniques."

Seabees and the BDF exchange skills and construction techniques on the job site. The Seabees are able to teach BDF engineers how to operate certain pieces of equipment, while the BDF teaches the Seabees about Belizean culture. With this knowledge, the Seabees have built friendships with the local children who are always curious about the projects.

Builder Constructionman Curtis Phinisee, NMCB 133, commented on how the two elements of the JTF work together.

"The BDF has their techniques that they show us and we have our techniques that we show them, so the trade is pretty good," Phinisee said. "We have our part, they have their part."

Each project is about a week ahead of schedule, which is a direct result of the strong team that Seabees have built with the BDF. Phinisee remarked on the teamwork that is evident on the projects. "We pretty much see everything eye-to-eye. We get in and help each other when needed," he added.

The mission to build the schools will provide significant benefits to the children in the villages of Crooked Tree and Trial Farms. The Seabees are building a school in each village, where conditions are overcrowded at existing schoolhouses.

The overcrowding is preventing many families from sending their children to school, according to Onesimo Pech, one of the teachers. "We have run out of space. In other words, all the classrooms are filled," Pech said.

With the buildings completed in May, the schools will be able to increase enrollment in September, allowing more children access to education. There is a high demand for education, according to Pech, and there are lots of parents applying for their children to come to school.

## Seabees in Belize

## Seabees in the Philippines

highly mobile patrol craft approximately 82-feet long with a 17-foot beam. The mooring system allows this craft to deploy for long periods of time, and also allow for maintenance and repairs in this very remote area of the Philippines.

The final portion of UCT 2 Air Detachment Bravo's deployment to the Philippines included participating in Exercise Balikatan 2007. Exercise Balikatan, which means "shoulder-to-shoulder," is now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year.

Exercise Balikatan is an annual bilateral U.S. and Republic of the Philippines exercise consisting of a STAFFEX,



**BU3 Timothy Whelehan, (front left) NMCB133, works with Belize soldiers during a concrete pour at Crooked Tree, Belize, while curious local children look on.**

Photo by LTJG Paul McCord



# Seabees in Djibouti

## Seabees' Humanitarian Efforts Hit Close to Home

By Engineering Aid 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Marc N. Comaduran, NMCB 133  
Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

**NMCB 133** At home and abroad, the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 have demonstrated their skill and resourcefulness in all aspects of construction, disaster relief and humanitarian efforts. Those skill sets are on display in Djibouti and are vital to their mission in Africa.

The air detachment of NMCB 133, known as the 'Kangaroos,' deployed to Camp Lemonier on a humanitarian mission, and used the lessons and skills from their Hurricane Katrina relief operations to improve the quality of life in the Horn of Africa.

Utilitiesman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer (SCW) Bobbie Halford saw the Gulf Coast destruction firsthand and related her experiences to helping Africans in the Horn.

"Coming to Djibouti and seeing how the living conditions are here, I was reminded of seeing Gulfport for the first time after the storm," Halford said. "I specifically remember starting our clean up back home and seeing how the community responded with so much gratitude.

"We were there to help, and that's just what we did. For the first time in my career, I felt as though my presence in the military was really needed and that we were really making a difference," she continued. "I've always known that Seabees regularly get tasked with large-scale disaster relief and humanitarian efforts. Now coming here, I see so much of what we went through in the daily lives of the people in Djibouti."

NMCB 133 Seabees worked daily to repair schools, drill clean water wells and improve roadways. In this foreign frontier, the challenges presented to NMCB 133, whether they come when putting a hammer to nail or putting aside a piece of equipment to take time to kick a soccer ball with local children, are similar to those the unit faced during post-Katrina operations.

For Halford, the work in Djibouti represents the best ideals of why she became a Seabee.

"This is my first deployment leaving my twin boys, who are almost three now," she said. "Coming here and seeing the children and all of the people makes me wish I could help them all.

"This may very well be the most rewarding deployment I have ever been a part of," Halford said.

## Seabees Support Local School's Science Fair

By MCC (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, NMCB 4 Public Affairs

**NMCB 4** Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 had the privilege of serving as judges for the Harry S. Truman Elementary School Science Fair in Guam on April 20, further supporting the Seabee relationship with the local community.

Eager to help out, NMCB 4 Seabees wanted to show they are here not only to complete construction projects, but also to continue the strong bond Seabees have with the people of Guam.

"Seabees have provided services for us for several years," said Elizabeth Reed, a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) teacher. "They have been a big help to the community, and are very gracious and willing to volunteer."

More than 70 students entered this year's science fair. Each project was graded on the originality of the concept, scientific method to prove the hypothesis, presentation clarity, conclusions, and the materials or methods used.

"I enjoy doing these things," Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW) Bill Hillberg said. "This is a positive influence for the children of Guam."

Fifth graders Britney Blou and Floretina Aguon worked on a project to see which contained more caffeine, Pepsi or Sprite. Both of them commented on how much the military helps at their school.

"It is really cool to have them here. They asked good questions and I had fun," Blou said. "They are really helpful for our school because some of us can't really afford much," Aguon added.

Reed also believes the help Seabees provide isn't just noticed at the school. "The military has a great impact not only here at the school, but in the community," she said. "Seabees are playing a role in the community and doing their part to bring us all together."

**(Opposite top left) A cloud of smoke and rock debris flies through the air at Orote Point Mineral Product Facility, Guam Naval Base.**

**(Opposite top right) EO3 Brandon Miller, NMCB 4, operates an excavator, breaking larger boulders into sizes small enough to fit in a rock crusher.**

**(Opposite center) CE3 Jonathan Brace (left), NMCB 4, monitors the primary rock crusher while CN Justin Dimmitt, NMCB 4, fills the hopper with a front-end loader.**

**(Opposite bottom) CN Angel Garcia Jr., NMCB 4, "floats" crushed rock in preparation for compaction at the Dadi Beach Road Project.**

Photos by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Rickie D. Bickle



## NMCB 4 Blasts Rock into Gravel

By MCC (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, NMCB 4

**NMCB 4** At Naval Base Guam's Orote Point Quarry, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 4 and 74 conducted a joint blast in April as part of turnover requirements.

Placed in holes that were drilled in a 5'x 5' staggered pattern, 1,000 pounds of explosive were detonated to create rock, gravel and sand for construction projects Seabees are completing for the naval base.

Rock drillers are used to create holes within the rock, burrowing to the next benchmark some 25 feet down. Explosive handlers, nicknamed 'Powder Monkeys,' then safely place explosives inside the hole, preparing the rock formations for blasting.

"These joint blasts are used so we can see how the rock breaks down and know what we are getting," Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Scott Baker, head blaster, said.

More than 15 personnel were on hand for the blast. Each battalion had two head blasters, two assistant blasters and four explosive handlers. Safety personnel and Orote Point facility managers were also on site.

"The whole point of blasting is to train the younger troops," Equipment Operator 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SCW) Daniel Romero said. "Blasting is a huge part of the Naval Construction Force. It's almost tradition."

After the blast, front-end loaders and bulldozers push the huge rocks, also called 'Volkswagens,' down each benchmark until they hit the floor of the quarry. From there they are transported to the Rock Crusher where the rocks will be crushed into usable material. The quarry also has a wash plant used to create sand. In order to segregate rocks from sand, they are fed up a conveyor belt where they are washed and agitated as the sand is sifted out.

During NMCB 4's homeport, Construction Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SCW) Andrew Duchscher attended blasting school to learn how to safely handle explosives during his first deployment as a blaster.

"I'm not really working in my rate this deployment, but it was pretty fun," Duchscher said. "I get to blow stuff up. How cool is that!"





## Navy Officer Has Personal Reasons for Working on Basrah Children's Hospital

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The very mention of the disease brings shudders of horror from parents of children two to five years old, who account for most of the disease's victims. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) accounts for 80 percent of all childhood cancer, and also attacks adults over the age of 50.

Thirty years ago, the disease killed all but five percent of those who contracted it.

For Seabee LT Allen Willey, CEC, currently serving at NAVFAC Northwest, and his wife Shereen, the horror became a reality when their three-and-a-half year old son, Christian, received the devastating diagnosis.

*By Betsy Weiner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South District*

Christian had been exhibiting excessive bruising and petechiae (tiny red spots from shattered blood vessels) on his chest.

"You don't live your life thinking about these diseases," said Willey, formerly the resident engineer for the Basrah Children's Hospital project. "The impact never hits you until it happens to you. And then, at first, you don't believe it."

The nightmare began in December 2000, several days after Christmas, and it gave Willey a special motivation to see that the Basrah Children's Hospital was built well.

Willey said Shereen had taken Christian to the doctor because they noticed the spots on his chest. Since it didn't seem as if the child had chicken pox or measles, and Christian didn't appear to be sick, they decided to wait until after the holiday to treat what they believed to be a benign condition.

"They took a blood sample from him, and the next thing I knew, I was riding in an ambulance to UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) Medical Center and my son had a platelet count of eight," Willey said. "A normal platelet count ranges from 150,000 to 450,000. He could have fallen off of his bicycle, bumped his head, and started bleeding internally. He could have passed away in his sleep."

The bone marrow manufactures platelets, which circulate in the blood, forming clots to stop excessive bleeding. Christian had virtually none.

The next few years tested the Willeys, and their daughter Ashley (then six), as nothing else will. Through Christian's chemotherapies, 24 spinal taps, countless CAT scans and hospitalizations, the Willey's priorities changed rapidly and dramatically.

Willey then found himself in a position he likes to call fate. As resident engineer in

charge of the Basrah Children's Hospital, a pediatric oncology facility, Willey was able to continue his battle against the disease that nearly killed his son.

Christian, now nine, has been in remission for four years, and today, the survival rate for ALL is 86 percent and rising.

"Basrah was chosen for this hospital for a specific reason," Willey said. "In Iraq, the incidence of childhood cancer, most of it ALL, is eight times higher than in the west, and in Basrah that number is four times higher than in the rest of Iraq. One hundred fifty children out of 1,000 die before they reach five, mostly of ALL, and no one knows why. Diagnosed leukemia cases in Basrah have increased 70 percent since 1989.

"So this hospital project became really personal for me," Willey said. "It was a fluke that I got that project. When I left Washington State where I was stationed



**LT Allen Willey displays the photo of his wife and children on the computer in his office with Gulf Region South District, where he was recently resident engineer for the Basrah Children's Hospital project.**  
Photo by Betsy Weiner

with the Navy, I didn't know what I would be doing, but I knew it would be in Basrah. I was able to give this project everything I knew — 20 years of construction experience. I was able to give something back."

Willey explained that once completed the facility will accept referrals from clinics throughout Iraq for children who are diagnosed with diseases, such as ALL, that are beyond other clinics' ability to treat.

"It (the hospital) will have specialists who can treat the childhood cancers and other conditions, such as neurological problems," he said. "The hospital will have childhood cancer specialty clinics, capable of radiological treatments, chemotherapies, fluoroscopy, CAT scans and MRIs. There will be an intensive care unit that will treat and monitor children whose immune systems are exhausted by the treatments and are prone to infection because

their bodies have lost the ability to stave off other diseases."

Willey added that support functions will be an important part of the hospital's services — support for parents and families who have been shattered by the diagnoses.

"Support becomes a way of life for the parents and the family," he said. "In the States, there are groups of people who have had a child or a grandchild struck by this disease."

Willey noted that these groups are an important part of the treatment process, and he believes the hospital will generate the kind of spirit among the people of Basrah.

The hospital has been under construction for five years and has endured setbacks of funding and contractors. USACE continued the project after contractor Bechtel left the site, and Gulf Region South assumed

oversight of the project.

With three Jordanian contractors taking care of everything from equipment to design and construction, the site boasts from six to eight managers and a workforce that fluctuates between 400 and 550. The hospital should be completed by February 2009.

Willey emphasized that while on site what motivated him to make the project succeed is the empathy he feels for the parents who are enduring what he, his wife, and son and daughter experienced.

"I want to continue to share my knowledge," he said. "I know what this can mean to a family going through a tragedy. I'm going to go the extra mile and make every effort to close the gaps. We have a great construction team over there, and they will keep moving forward even though my tour there is finished."



# Navy MUSE Techs Ready Guam's Emergency Backup Power



**Powering Up:** A 2,000-kilowatt generator from NAVFAC's Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) division is inspected at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Main Station (NCTMS), Guam.  
Photo by Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Doug Morgan

*By Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Doug Morgan, NFELC*

**T**he Naval Facilities Engineering Command's (NAVFAC's) Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) division tested and inspected emergency backup power critical to the disaster preparedness of many Department of Defense (DoD) facilities on Guam during a three-week project completed earlier this year.

"Guam goes through cycles of disasters and these units have been our lifelines," said Mike Pangelinan, lead operator, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, on the value of the backup power during disasters such as Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cory Wright, detachment officer-in-charge, and his crew of three technicians set their goals high in order to complete a 512-man-day tasking that encompasses rigorous mechanical and electrical inspections of two 2,000 kilowatt power generation plants, two 1,300 kilowatt power generation plants and one 2,500 kilovolt-amp substation.

Through tasking as two separate teams, these well-trained technicians hit the pavement running determined to complete the recertification ahead of schedule.

Although the main power for the island originates from the Guam Power Authority, the MUSE power generation plants supply

more than 6.6 megawatts of emergency backup critical load power to the many DoD facilities throughout the island.

These installations include the NAVFAC Marianas, USS Frank Cable, Next-Generation Radar Weather Station and Commander Submarine Squadron 15.

Since 1992, the MUSE plants have proven reliable and trustworthy to restore power during outages of all kinds.

Within minutes of being notified, trained operators of these massive machines can re-power the grid and bring life to all connected lines, from the piers of the Naval Station to the lights at the Nimitz Hill Golf Course — always remembering that critical loads come first.

Over the years, MUSE technicians have traveled in support of DoD activities, contingencies and natural disasters around the world. Their job is to inspect, troubleshoot and operate the Navy's highly technical and portable power generation plants.

The MUSE goal is simple — to ensure that each piece of equipment in MUSE's inventory, whether deployed or pre-staged at the MUSE yard, is ready to be deployed to any location around the world, whenever the need arises.

In order to meet that goal, MUSE teams are constantly on the move, ensuring that each piece of equipment receives the attention needed to preserve and prolong the life of these Navy assets.

# TRAINING



## Seabees Receive 3-Phase Training in Homeport

NMCB 133

A homeported Seabee battalion completes three training phases as it prepares for its next deployment: technical, military and skills attainment. The technical training phase emphasizes skills training by rate or trade. The military training phase is focused on combat skills. Skills attainment training (SAT) is focused on refining and rehearsing expertise based on the upcoming mission requirements in preparation for deployment.

NMCB 133 Seabees received their homeport training in late April.



(Top left) NMCB 133 Seabees perform journeyman-level welding training as part of their homeport technical training phase.

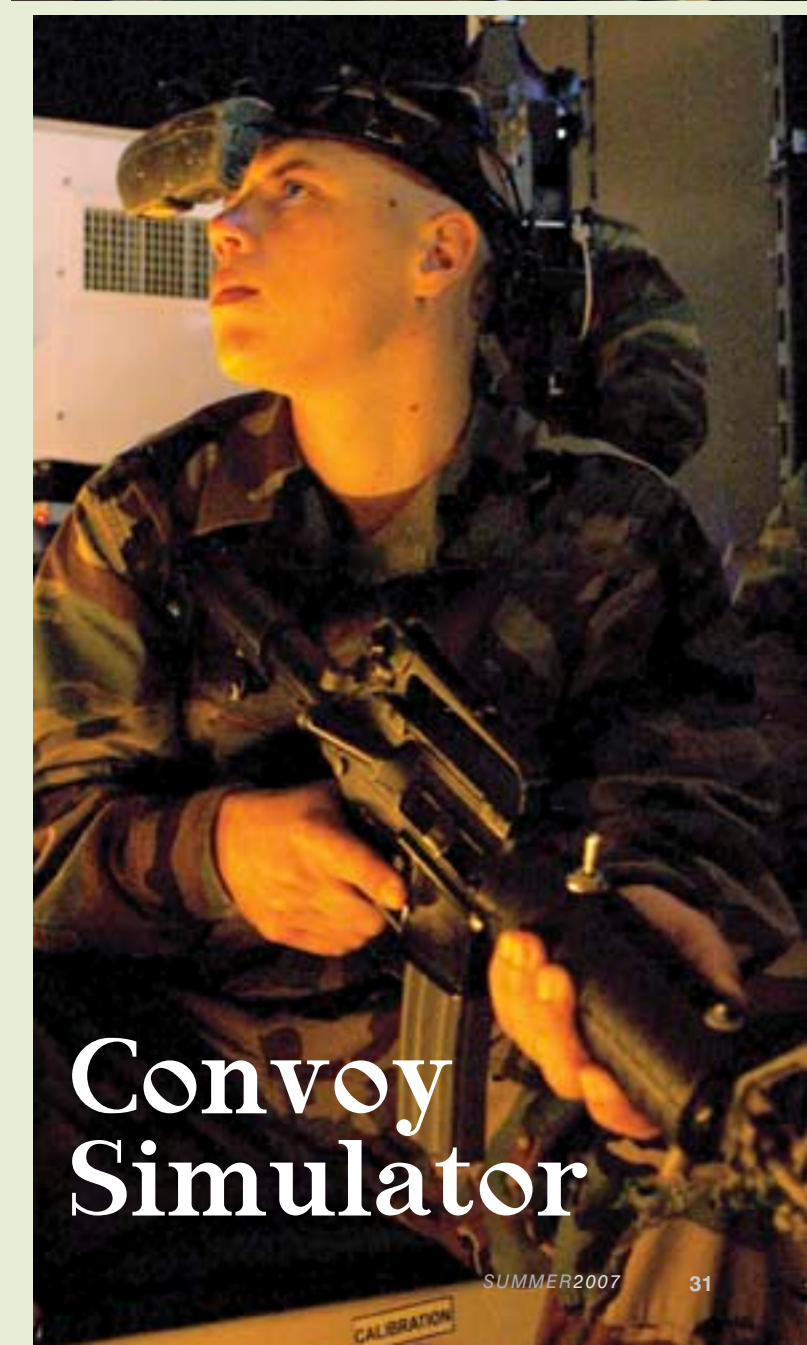
(Above) EOCN Noe Estradarebollar, NMCB 133, cuts a flat-bottom ditch with a D7 Dozer as part of the Equipment Operator Seabee Veteran Course.

(Left) Army and Navy Apprentice Students place asphalt as part of Builder Class 'A' School. Builder students also receive training on installing flooring, framing, roofing, masonry and interior/exterior finish, as well as other skills.

U.S. Navy photos







## NMCB 1 Officers, Chiefs Team up in Khaki FEX

By MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Officers and chiefs from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 recently sharpened their contingency operation skills during the week-long khaki field exercise (FEX), held at joint training facility Camp Shelby, Miss., in late April.

“It puts the khakis in their troops’ positions,” said Utilitiesman Chief Tim Hittle, the R75 convoy security military operations urban terrain (MOUT) chief petty officer. “They set up wires, dig foxholes and do convoy operations so that they know what their troops go through.”

The rising heat and humidity made it a trying time for the NMCB 1 leadership early in the week; but with their ‘Can Do’ spirit, they pushed forward.

“It’s easy to dehydrate out here,” said Chief Construction Mechanic Ambrose Brown, Guam Company Alfa Four. “With all this gear on, if you’re not taking in fluids, it makes you very susceptible to becoming a heat casualty.”

Before actually starting training operations, officers and chiefs received a refresher on the basics of weapons familiarization, first aid and medical evacuation procedures.

As training was underway, the competition was not only against the heat and humidity of Camp Shelby, but also the khakis against one another. The Seabees were divided into seven teams to compete in a 6.4-mile endurance course with each group performing specific tasks at different stations.

Some of the tasks included disassembling and reassembling weapons, mounting weapons on Humvees, entering radio frequencies and administering first aid.

Mid-week, the khakis polished up on their radio skills in a communications exercise and kept watch throughout the night in patrolling exercises.

Showers and thunderstorms cooled down the field a bit as some Seabees drove Humvees through the Mississippi mud in convoy operations, while others slogged through the leadership reaction course.

Prior to heading back to Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport, Miss., the khakis concluded their FEX week with the engagement of targets on the Fire Arms Training Simulator (FATS) and a final exam.

## NMCB 1 Takes First Steps Toward Convoy Success

By MC2 (SCW) Ja’lon A. Rhinehart, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 completed a training exercise with the Raydan Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer at Camp Shelby, Miss., earlier this year to further develop their tactical skills for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Although they just recently returned from deployment in the Pacific, NMCB 1 eagerly took advantage of the resources of an adjacent unit to prepare its Seabees to meet upcoming deployment challenges. Much like a video game, the trainer allows service members to step into a virtual environment where they are called upon to respond as if in a real-life situation.

Users are presented with various hazards, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), traffic problems and encounters with local nationals, where quickly distinguishing combatants from noncombatants is a lifesaving skill. Equipped with a gun turret, crew serve weapon and M-16s, each Humvee in the four-vehicle convoy transports the Seabees into a very realistic virtual environment.

“It was a great eye opener,” said Chief Builder (SCW) Louis Pambianco, one of two convoy commanders.

Seabee battalions are generally responsible for providing advance base construction, battle damage repair, contingency engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery to fleet and unified commanders. Convoy security is vital, as civil engineer support equipment and construction materials are often required to be moved from one location to another.

The training gave younger troops the opportunity to get their first taste of what it takes for a convoy security mission to be successful.

“This training was a great tool for us,” said Pambianco. “For many of the troops who don’t have prior convoy experience, this provided an opportunity for them to learn what to expect – to learn where their training needs to go.”

(Above left) EOCS Mark Thomas (left) and CMC Ronaldo Rodriguez, NMCB 1, use teamwork to maneuver a wooden plank during a training operations exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Ja’lon A. Rhinehart

(Above right) YNC Julie Long, NMCB 1, passes wooden planks as team members stand by to bring her across an obstacle at the leadership reaction course at Camp Shelby.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Ja’lon A. Rhinehart

(Opposite, top left) LTJG Christopher Casne, NMCB 1, maintains balance through a simulated river on the leadership reaction course at Camp Shelby.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Ja’lon A. Rhinehart

(Opposite, top right) YNSN Danellie Rivera, NMCB 1, connects her headset to a radio at a field communications exercise held at NCBC Gulfport, Miss.

Photo by MC2 Chad Runge

(Opposite, bottom) BUCA Randy Smart, NMCB 1, scans his flanks as the vehicle moves through the course on the Raydan Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer earlier this year. NMCB 1 used the virtual training exercise to provide a simulated environment for troops to practice key skills in completing successful convoys.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Ja’lon A. Rhinehart



# Construction/Defensive Ops

NMCB 40

## Fighting 40 Executes Field Exercise

Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 participated in a three-week Field Exercise (FEX) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., to conduct construction and defensive operations in April and May.



(This spread)

(Top row, left) Bravo Company personnel stand security as a Seabee hastily digs a fighting position during a three-week FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in April and May.

Photo by LT Wallace M. Mattos

(Top row, right) Seabees from NMCB 40's Charlie Company place triple strand concertina wire while maintaining heightened security posture. The project was one of several permanent construction projects that NMCB 40 undertook as part of its battalion FEX.

Photo by BUC Eric Jovellanos

(Middle row, left) NMCB 40 Seabees clean their weapons prior to returning to the armory.

Photo by LT Wallace M. Mattos

(Middle row, center) NMCB 40 Seabees launch a Bailey Bridge into position, one of several construction projects during the battalion field exercise.

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy

(Middle row, right) Seabees from Charlie Company, NMCB 40, reconstruct a 15-ft. timber tower after dismantling it for relocation.

Photo by LT Wallace M. Mattos

(Bottom row, far left) EA3 Tewodros Seyoum, NMCB 40, conducts a land survey in preparation for Echo Company's Bailey Bridge placement.

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy

(Bottom row, near left) Seabees from NMCB 40 place bolted fabric sections together during a Rapid Runway Repair exercise. The training consisted of clearing the field of debris and simulated unexploded ordnance, and filling two simulated bomb craters.

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy





# Ship-to-Shore Cargo Transport



## Little Creek-based Seabees Exercise Critical Mission Areas

By MC2 Leslie Long, ACB 2

**ACB 2** **CBMU 202** More than 400 Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 combined efforts for two weeks of Amphibious Excellence field training in March and April at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. The training program was designed around defending the primary mission of ACB 2: ship-to-shore movement of critical cargo.

The three-phase scenario required the integrated unit to exercise tactical movement of battalion personnel and equipment to a Tactical Assembly Area, establish and maintain a defensive perimeter, and construct and maintain a base camp. Classroom and practical training were incorporated, including patrols and land navigation, convoy operations, and USMC-instructed hand-to-hand combat in preparation for the final tactical phase.

During this phase, the training team implemented numerous tactical scenarios for

the Seabees to use all newly acquired skills. Due to the tremendous motivation and focus of Seabees from ACB 2 and CBMU 202, the joint exercise proved to be a huge success for both sharpening their warfighter skills and expertise.

**(Clockwise from top left)**  
**EN2 John Boiter receives and issues instructions from the squad leader's fighting position during a mock skirmish with aggressors.**

**BMC Gary Jeter (right) issues orders to Bravo Company front line as reinforcements run past during a mock aggressor attack.**

**CMCN Franklin Cope demonstrates proper use of a compass during a land navigation exercise.**

**CM1 Wayne Espinoza (center), CBMU 202, issues instructions while BU3 Brandon Audie (left), CBMU 202, communicates with the COC via radio and CM2 Michael Phipps, ACB 2, remains focused on mock aggressors during a security drill.**

U.S. Navy photos



## NAVFAC Southwest CEC Officer Receives 2006 Moreell Medal

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest's Commander Mark Geronime received the 2006 Moreell Medal from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

As Public Works Operations Officer and Assistant Operations Officer, NAVFAC Southwest and Engineering Directorate Planning Branch Chief, and at the Combined Security Transition Command in Kabul, Afghanistan, CDR Geronime demonstrated extraordinary leadership, unmatched vision, boundless energy and superior technical expertise.



U.S. Navy photo

His trailblazing contributions spearheaded the very complex, foundational planning that ensured the successful establishment of a regionally aligned, integrated facilities engineering command. His tenacious drive was critical to the successful integration of the former installation Public Works Departments into NAVFAC Southwest, the incorporation of more than \$80 million worth of new business across five business lines, and the complex mapping of more than 500 personnel into

the new integrated command.

While serving with the Combined Security Transition Command in Kabul, his exceptional work resulted in the planning and execution of \$475 million in infrastructure development supporting the stand-up of the Afghan National Army and Police, including spearheading the design and construction of the National Military Command Center in less than 90 days. His tireless efforts and devotion to duty have made immeasurable positive impacts on the operation of the Navy and Marine Corps Shore Infrastructure and have directly and significantly advanced operations in the Global War on Terror.

The Moreell Medal is presented annually by SAME to an officer of the Navy CEC, regular or reserve, on active or inactive duty or retired, or to a civilian employee of NAVFAC in recognition of outstanding contribution to military engineering. The award is named for Admiral Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees in the early days of World War II.

## Peltier and Perry Award Recipients Announced

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

Rear Admiral Greg Shear, NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers, named the winners of two major awards for 2006 — Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 earned the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Rear Admiral Eugene J. Peltier Award, and NMCB 25 earned the Chief of Civil Engineers' Rear Admiral John R. Perry Award.

The recipients of the 2006 Peltier Award for the most outstanding active component NMCB are the 'Runnin' Roos' of NMCB 133. The men and women of NMCB 133 conducted disaster recovery operations following Hurricane Katrina, provided expeditionary construction and combat service support in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as exercise-related construc-

tion as part of U.S. Pacific Command's theater cooperation plan. In applying excellent small unit leadership, emphasizing safety and "every Seabee a leader," as well as superbly completing all requested taskings, NMCB 133 exemplified the renowned "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees.

The 2006 Perry Award recipients for the most outstanding reserve component NMCB are the 'Spades and Clubs' of NMCB 25. The men and women of NMCB 25 mobilized and deployed to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Providing contingency construction and combat service support, the battalion deployed an unprecedented 503 Seabees throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Operating in a highly challenging environment, superior small

unit leadership, exceptional command and control, and thorough preparation ensured every assigned mission was a success. Severely tested in demanding and uncertain operating environments, NMCB 25 adapted and overcame every obstacle it faced, clearly upholding the highest traditions of the Seabees.

Named for two legendary and distinguished CEC/Seabee leaders, the Peltier and Perry awards recognize the most outstanding Naval Construction Battalions in the active and reserve components. Units selected for this prestigious award are recognized leaders in the Naval Construction Force in leadership, readiness, construction accomplishments, equipment management, logistics programs, retention and safety.





## Seabees from NMCB 1 and NMCB 4 Receive 2006 Stethem, Combs and Shields Awards

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers Rear Adm. Greg Shear announced the recipients of the 2006 Stethem, Combs and Shields Awards. These annual awards are presented by the Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee Historical Foundation to recognize individual contributions to the legacy of the Seabees and to the Civil Engineer Corps.

STEELWORKER 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS  
ROBERT E. STETHEM AWARD  
Chief Petty Officer (SCW) Phillip W. Earhart, CEC, NMCB 1



Chief Petty Officer Phillip Earhart served as detail operations officer for the Seabee augment force assigned to the Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion in Fort Suse and Camp Bucca, Iraq, with NMCB 1, and as the convoy commander for Task Force 26 operating in hostile regions throughout northern Iraq. His prior efforts in executing an aggressive internal training program were evidenced in the extremely high standards for operational readiness and training, tactics and procedures achieved during the mission. His take-charge leadership and decisiveness under fire were crucial while he commanded more than 110 convoys, including the safe convoy transport of more than 1,400 detainees during the depopulation and closure of Fort Suse. Earhart also served as the assistant civil-military operations coordinator for Task Force 26, where he supervised the distribution of more than 3,000 pounds of school supplies, clothing and sports equipment to local Iraqi villages, winning hearts and minds, and greatly enhancing relations among coalition forces and the local population.

*Named for Steelworker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem, the award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Seabees while in the course of actual operations. Petty Officer Stethem was a victim of the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in June 1985, after being singled out from passengers as a U.S. Navy Sailor and killed when terrorist demands were not met. He was returning home with fellow members of UCT 2 after completing a routine assignment in Greece.*

REAR ADMIRAL  
LEWIS B. COMBS AWARD  
Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW)  
Grant C. Glover, NMCB 4

BU1 Grant Glover served as detachment operations chief, detail assistant officer-in-charge and command Seabee combat warfare program coordinator for NMCB 4 in 2006. He planned and executed deployment of a 37-Seabee team to northern Pakistan in support of Operation Lifeline to



conduct cleanup and engineering relief operations in response to an international call for aid following an earthquake that devastated the Kashmir region. While serving as both the assistant officer-in-charge and operations chief of a construction detail in Atsugi, Japan, he led the layout and placement of foundations and structural work for a new aircraft maintenance facility for Naval Air Forces Pacific, pushing production from 16 percent behind to four percent ahead of schedule accomplished in a 45-day period, all while maintaining superior quality and job site safety reflected by zero incidents or discrepancies.

*This award is named in honor of RADM Lewis B. Combs and is presented to an individual who has made the most outstanding contribution in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps. Combs served as chief deputy to Admiral Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees, and helped create the "fighter builders" and the Civil Engineer Corps. He was active with the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from its inception in 1970, first as Chairman of the Board of Directors and later as Chairman Emeritus, until his death at age 101.*

**Editor's Note:** In addition to receiving the Combs Award, BU1 Glover was selected in January as the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division's 2007 Sea Sailor of the Year.

CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC  
3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS  
MARVIN G. SHIELDS AWARD  
Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW)  
Jonathan D. Eisfelder, NMCB 4

Petty Officer Jonathan Eisfelder's inspirational leadership and stalwart dedication have been instrumental to the successful standup of the Navy's first Provisional Detainee Battalion in Iraq, a major Navy initiative in the Global War on Terror and one of the Chief of Naval Operations' highest priority missions. Serving as air detachment platoon commander, security platoon chief and the most junior tactical convoy commander in the region, Eisfelder ensured total success of every mission. A seasoned veteran of 150 convoy missions in Iraq, security operations at Forward Operating Base Suse, training operations during homeport, and extensive humanitarian outreach efforts



at home and abroad, Eisfelder has clearly distinguished himself as a leader of leaders. *This award is presented for outstanding technical and leadership ability, and is given in honor of Construction Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Marvin Shields, a 26-year-old Seabee serving in Vietnam with NMCB 11 in 1965. Shields' unit, along with Army Special Forces and South Vietnam Defense personnel, came under attack by 2,000 Viet Cong and, although greatly outnumbered, withstood intense close-range combat for almost three hours. Shields and an Army lieutenant volunteered to man a rocket launcher, destroying an enemy machine gun position. Despite repeatedly being hit, Shields fought on until he was mortally wounded; he died the following day while being evacuated by helicopter.*

U.S. Navy photos

## Seabee Named Fort Leonard Wood Joint Service NCO of the Year

By MC1 (SW/AW) John Osborne,  
Naval Personnel Development Command  
Public Affairs, and EQCM (SCW)  
Tom Kinkle, Center for Seabees  
and Facilities Engineering,  
Detachment Fort Leonard Wood

Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffrey E. Owens, Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE), Detachment Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was selected as the Fort Leonard Wood Joint Service Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Maj. Gen. William McCoy, Jr., commanding general of Fort Leonard Wood, awarded the Army Commendation Medal to Owens for his exemplary performance before the Joint Service NCO board. Petty Officer Owens, a native of nearby Lebanon, Mo., is the first Sailor to win this recognition since the Navy Detachment was established in 1995.



U.S. Navy photo

While assigned to CSFE Detachment Fort Leonard Wood, Owens had been an instructor for the Disaster Preparedness Operations Specialist course and is currently serving as a Sailor Development Continuum (SDC) Leading Petty Officer for the Engineering Aide and Equipment Operator "A" Schools.

Prior to his accomplishments at Fort Leonard Wood, Owens was a member of the base closure and realignment crew at Naval Air Station Adak, Alaska; deployed to Korea and Japan as a member of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74; and during an assignment with the Naval Support Unit, State Department, he was stationed in the Philippines where he made numerous trips throughout Southeast Asia in support of U.S. consulates and embassies. During this period he also found time to earn an associate's degree from Park University in Construction Management.

"I've always tried to be well-rounded, and be the best at everything I do," Owens said. "I know that younger Sailors are watching me and that I have to set an example for them. I try to always show them the right things to do to have a successful career; and when they look at my career, I hope they see that."

## NMCB 4 HELPS KEEP GUAM'S ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

By MCC (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, NMCB 4

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 participated in a local aluminum can recycling drive with Harry S. Truman School in Guam on May 12.

The Truman school had been collecting and saving aluminum cans for just over two weeks, and asked NMCB 4 to help transport the cans to a local recycling center. "The Seabees have been partners with the school for a long time," said Rebecca North, a member of the recycling team. "They have always been there for us fixing things, painting and tutoring. They are there for us and we love it."

Ready with a Large Tactical Cargo Truck, four Second Class Petty Officers headed out to the school. "The school had been collecting the cans for awhile," Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Angela Kennedy said. "We gathered up all the cans and loaded them up onto the truck,

and took them to the recycling center."

"The group was really a fun bunch," North said. "They had fun helping us out."

The Truman school held this drive to raise awareness for the students showing them that by making a conscious effort they can keep recyclables out of their landfills, while raising money for books and other school activities. The class that brought in the most cans won a pizza party.

NMCB 4 transported more than 1,000 pounds of recyclable material, helping the school earn approximately \$400. The money raised from this project will go toward school activities.

"We have a lot of respect and admiration for the Seabees. They are always willing to come out and help us accomplish what we would not be able to accomplish on our own," North noted.



NMCB 4 assisted students at Harry S. Truman School in Guam during an aluminum can recycling drive in mid-May. Seabees who helped transport more than 1,000 pounds of aluminum to a local recycling plant included (from left to right) EO2 (SCW) Daniel Romero, EO2 (SCW) Karl Tischer, EO2 (SCW/AW) Francis Villareal, and HM2 Angela Kennedy.

U.S. Navy photo



## BOY SCOUTS PARTNER WITH SEABEES IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By MC2 Ian P. Lundy, NMCB 40 Public Affairs

The Navy's Core Values are quite similar to those of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts teach loyalty, honesty and helpfulness — just as the Navy does. So when Sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 volunteered earlier this year at the Boy Scout Winter Camp at Three Falls in Camp Frazier, Calif., it wouldn't be a surprise if the two groups hit it off well.

Over the weekend-long event, the Scouts

participated in winter survival fire building, basic first aid, tower climbing and rappelling to name a few of the activities. At the fire building course, Chief Petty Officer (Ret.) Thomas Rolls taught the Scouts the trick to starting a fire.

"Moss, horse hair, cattle hair — I carry horse hair. I find that works best for me," said Rolls about his formula for starting a fire with a fire piston, a technique he discovered in the Philippines some

years back.

While the Scouts learned an interesting way to build a fire, they also learned about taking pride in what they do. "The satisfaction of having a fire piston is the fact that you built it yourself and you're capable of using it," Rolls explained to the Scouts.

Little nuances like this were exactly what Senior Chief Petty Officer Arthur Messer and the rest of the organizers of this winter camp envi-

sioned the Scouts learning from this training.

Messer's goal was to show the campers one of the finer sides of the military. "I wanted the kids to see that the military does more than shoot guns and get involved in war," Messer said. "The military has some very valuable skills it passes to its troops that can be transferred to civilian life in instruction and everyday existence."

Messer has a son in Troop 225 (one of the troops participating), so he's been involved with the Boy Scouts for a while. He decided to take his involvement one step further by showing some of his fellow Sailors how easy it is to volunteer and give something special back to the community through the Scouts.

Senior Chief also mentioned that it gave the Seabees the opportunity to see how the children react to them; it let them see the wheels turn in the children's heads about possible life/career choices for themselves.

Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Joerge Temple, NMCB 40, a volunteer at the camp, experienced this personally. "This was a lot of fun. The kids come around and ask you about being a Seabee, and they all have positive attitudes," Temple said. "It's great."

**CM3 Josh Phillips (far left), NMCB 40, helps hoist a Boy Scout onto a climbing wall during a confidence building course at Camp Three Falls in Camp Frazier, Calif.**

Photo by MC2 Ian P. Lundy



(At left) BUCN Bobby Gaskin (left) and UTCN Jonathan Cox, NMCB 133, push out the final yards of the 13.1-mile Spirit of St. Louis Half Marathon held on Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. Cox and Gaskin were the top finishers from NMCB 133 at 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, in their age group, both completing the race in 1:42:42.

(Above) Members of NMCB 133 pose for a group photo before the start of the Spirit of St. Louis Half Marathon. Along with their reserve counterparts in NMCB 26, NMCB 133 Seabees competed against service members from various countries. Of the approximately 670 participants, close to 650 finished the 13.1-mile race.

Photos by MC1 Nicholas Lingo

## NMCBs 26, 133 SEABEES GO THE DISTANCE

By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and their reserve counterparts with NMCB 26 competed in the Spirit of St. Louis Half Marathon in Kuwait on April 20 against service members from various countries.

Of the approximately 670 participants, close to 650 finished the 13.1-mile race. Between the two battalions, 19 members participated and all finished in less than three hours.

Utilitiesman Constructionman Jonathan Cox and Builder Constructionman Bobby Gaskin were the top finishers from NMCB 133 at 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, in their

age group, both completing the race in 1:42:42.

Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric Anglikowski, NMCB 26, finished first in the walking portion of the race in 2:34:43.

Some participants ran alone, while others preferred to run with fellow competitors, citing additional morale and support as defining factors in their success.

Information Systems Technician 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Larry McVay ran by himself, preferring the company of music.

"It helped to just drown out everything and keep a good rhythm," McVay said.

Information Systems Technician Chief

Fisackerly Evans ran alongside two fellow Seabees from start to finish.

"I believe running in a group with shipmates was helpful because we were able to keep each other motivated," said Evans.

Running a half marathon requires a good deal of mental determination, according to Storekeeper 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Alexandre Struk, who paired with Construction Electrician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Herschell Newhouse for the run.

"We talked a lot for the first 10 miles, so it wasn't too bad," said Struk. "By about [mile] 11 or 12, it got kind of bad."

Ultimately, meeting the challenge motivated

Struk to complete the full 13.1 miles.

"I just thought, 'I can't quit now. I've got to finish,'" Struk said.

While completing the half marathon was a great achievement for most, others intend to reach even higher goals. McVay aspires to run an entire marathon someday.

"I would really like to train for a full marathon and up the challenge," he said.

Whether running a half marathon or not, the participants agree that being fit is what counts.

"Staying in shape is very important," Evans said. "Not only while you're in the Navy, but throughout life."



**SEABEES WIN  
2006 CHINFO  
MERIT AWARDS**

By NAVFAC Headquarters  
Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Information (CHINFO) presented the 2006 Merit Awards for exemplary achievements in internal media print and broadcast products by Navy commands and individuals. The following Seabees and battalions received awards in these categories:

**Feature Article****2<sup>nd</sup> place:**

MC1 (SCW) Leslie A. Shively, NMCB 22

**Photojournalism****1<sup>st</sup> place:**

MC2 Ja'lon A. Rhinehart, NMCB 1

**Familygram****(Large Command)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Focus on Four, NMCB 4

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: The One and Only, NMCB 1

**Cruisebook****(Large Command)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: NMCB 7

Honorable Mention: NMCB 4

Congratulations!

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALL SEABEE  
REUNION****SEPT. 11-13, 2007**

(Recommissioning of NMCB 11 on Sept. 14)  
Gulfport, MS  
Participating Battalions and Contacts  
MCB 11 – ALL ERAS  
Larry Hagler  
P.O. Box 4647  
Lago Vista, TX 78645-0055  
512-267-8873  
mcb11.reunion@earthlink.net

**1<sup>st</sup> ALL SEABEE REUNION  
– EAST COAST****FEB. 22-24, 2008**

Hampton, VA  
Ed Kloster  
mccb@earthlink.net

For complete list of reunions, visit [www.allseabees.com](http://www.allseabees.com) or the Seabee Historical Foundation at [www.seabeehf.org](http://www.seabeehf.org).

**AUGUST****29<sup>th</sup> NCB****AUG. 2-5**

Alton, IL  
Art Grotto  
11308 Moraine Dr., Unit E  
Palos Hills, IL 60465  
708-974-3691  
agrotto@sbcglobal.net

**NSVA National Convention****AUG. 8-12**

Covington, KY  
Jerry Cox  
1379 Lakeshore Dr.  
Monroe, OH 45050  
513-360-3430  
seabee6@cinci.rr.com

**56<sup>th</sup> NCB****AUG. 30 – SEPT. 2**

Odessa, TX  
Peggy McCulloch  
1410 Fargo Ave.  
Odessa, TX 79761  
432-366-6625

**SEPTEMBER****CBMU 536/ CBMU 537****SEPT. 5-9**

Indianapolis, IN  
Milton Sklut  
16544 Ember Glen Rd  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
626-336-8109

**107<sup>th</sup> NCB****SEPT. 6-9**

Asheville, NC  
Jim Weller  
184 Carrier Rd.  
Crescent City, FL 32112  
386-698-3093

**116<sup>th</sup> NCB (WWII)****SEPT. 6-9**

Coeur D Alene, ID  
William Appel  
1000 Kings Hwy., # 285  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
941-235-1923  
Wappel1@earthlink.net

**62<sup>nd</sup> NCB (WWII)****SEPT. 7-9**

Peoria, IL  
V.P. "Joe" Johansen  
502 South 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Fertile, IA 50434  
303-949-3944  
wandajohansen@msn.com

**NMCB 62****SEPT. 11-13**

Gulfport/Biloxi, MS  
Dennis Wasson  
1639 Marion Waldo Rd., Lot 6  
Marion, OH 43302  
740-389-2640  
cd2wasson@yahoo.com

**NMCB 3****SEPT. 13-16**

Washington, DC  
Phil Weatherwax  
1786 Shady Oak Ct.  
Azusa, CA 91702  
626-969-1841  
pweatherwax@earthlink.net

**28<sup>th</sup> SPNCB****Sept. 13-16**

South Bend, IN  
Jim McDonald  
8298 Windermere Landing  
Paw Paw Lake  
Watervliet, MI 49098  
jblatchmcd@parrett.net

**63<sup>rd</sup> NCB Assoc.****SEPT. 14-16**

Kansas City, MO  
Ms Anita Crowley  
1305 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
816-228-5512

**72<sup>nd</sup> NCB (WWII)****SEPT. 20-23**

Nashville, TN  
Bob Adams  
8905 Richmond Rd.  
Union, KY 41091  
859-384-8905  
silverscreen@fuse.net

**33<sup>rd</sup> NCB****SEPT. 23-26**

Newport, RI  
Paula Ogden  
147 Bobble Hill Rd.  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
401-722-5208  
pogden@massbay.edu

**43<sup>rd</sup> NCB****SEPT. 25-27**

Myrtle Beach, SC  
Tony Percoco  
73 Westwood Ave.  
Ellenville, NY 12428  
845-647-6092  
tvtoursinc@yahoo.com

**CBMU 539****SEPT. 25-29**

Saint Charles, MO  
John Snell  
40289 Via Calidad  
Murrieta, CA 92562  
951-894-6738  
jacksnell@aol.com

**103<sup>rd</sup> NCB****SEPT. 26-28**

Branson, MO  
Lynn Abbott  
2545 Fairway Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
719-635-2137  
Lynn@texasabbotts.com

**NMCB 9****(All Seabees Welcome)****SEPT. 27-30**

Las Vegas, NV  
Bobby Fletcher  
1758 Golden Vista Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
702-897-6613  
ICHIBANSeabee@aol.com

**119<sup>th</sup> NCB****SEPT. 27-30**

Evansville, IN  
Adam Belajac  
2368 Tilbrook Rd.  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
412-373-6283  
abelajac119cb@webtv.net

**CBMU 202/CBU 408****NMCB 12/13/19/27****7<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> NCR****(All Seabees Welcome)****SEPT. 28-30**

Lowell, MA  
Bill Napert  
65 Bigelow St.  
Fall River, MA 02720  
508-672-2737  
Bnapert@aol.com

**CBMU 627/628/629****114<sup>th</sup> NCB (WWII)****SEPT. 30 – OCT. 4**

Charleston, SC  
Sharon A. Tolisano  
2829 Wedgefield Rd.  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
843-520-5867  
satolisano@aol.com

**OCTOBER****NMCB 1 (All Eras)****OCT. 5-8**

Nashville, TN  
Peter Dowd  
89 Edward Rd.  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
781-837-0393  
Mcb1reunion@verizon.net

**3<sup>rd</sup> NCB (WWII)****OCT. 7-10**

Flagstaff, AZ  
Horace Johnson  
P.O. Box 91359  
Austin, TX 78709  
512-288-2078

**NMCB 2 (Korea)/CBMU 577****CBD 1802/1804****CBMU 1/101****OCT. 20-23**

Saint Louis, MO  
Scott Williams  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180  
770-456-4246  
williash@aol.com

By RADM Robert L. Phillips, CEC, USN  
Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division

As I prepare to complete my tour and leave active duty service, I want to once again express my appreciation to all Seabees around the world today, tirelessly doing the jobs that your nation has called you to perform. I took the helm at 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Division in November 2004, and time has gone by quickly. Your "Can Do" spirit has been a source of inspiration to me and to everyone with whom you have come in contact. We all appreciate each and every one of you.

The accomplishments of the Seabees during this period have been phenomenal, and I am proud to have served with you. Your critical support in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait has been particularly inspirational. You have repaired roads and other infrastructure, and made bases and camps safer by hardening facilities for the troops. Seabees have also helped construct forward operating bases and other critical facilities throughout the U.S. Central Command region. All of us who serve will never forget the sacrifices of those who have been killed or wounded in this conflict. Nor will we forget the courage and determination of those Seabees who carried on and completed vital work despite these losses.

Seabees have also helped people around the world in places like Djibouti, Pohnpei, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Bangladesh and Kenya. By offering the hand of friendship and compassion to those in need, you have given hope to countless people while also helping stop the spread of terrorism.

Although there were many memorable events during the past few years, one in particular that stands out was your performance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Your response was one of the most inspirational demonstrations of Seabee spirit ever witnessed. Our Seabees, many of whom had lost their own homes, selflessly offered to help others rebuild their lives in the Gulf Coast region. And, if that was not enough, some of these same Seabees deployed halfway around the world to help earthquake victims in Pakistan. Reserve Component and Pacific-based Seabees pitched in to help their Gulfport counterparts, and other Seabees in Iraq delayed their own homecoming in order to give their comrades in Gulfport more time to get their homes in order before deploying.

In the process, you racked up another impressive set of statistics for the history books by repairing more than 100 schools, removing 20,000 tons of debris, clearing 750 miles of roads, delivering more than 100,000 gallons of fuel and water, repairing 160 sewage lift stations and 200 water main breaks, and building a tent city to house 1,000 people.

Your response to that event symbolizes what makes Seabees so special. Helping others in their time of need, getting the job done despite all obstacles, and taking care of our own — that's what being a Seabee is all about. Your leadership, courage and dedication at all levels was absolutely awe-inspiring.

As Seabees, you will see and experience things that most people can only imagine. You will travel the world and forge bonds of friendship with your shipmates and with people from other cultures. Whether improving living conditions for fellow service members at a base camp or providing a source of clean drinking water to a remote African village, you can rest well in the knowledge that you have made someone's life a little better. I encourage all of you to take the time to truly appreciate this Seabee life you have chosen, because the journey will be over before you know it.

As my transition approaches, I also can't help but think about the many wonderful people who supported me throughout my career. From my earliest assignment at Parris Island, to my most recent tour as Division Commander, I recognize I owe much to many people. None of us reaches his goals in life without the help of those we meet along the way, and I have been truly blessed in that respect. I will soon leave with boxes of mementoes accumulated through the years, but my most treasured possessions will be the memories of all the Seabees who make up the greatest construction force in the world. They are gifts that will neither tarnish nor fade.

RADM Rich Cellon assumes command of 1NCD on June 29, and this great Seabee will lead you through even greater achievements as a Force. I have no doubt that you will give him your full support and effort as he sets the direction of the Naval Construction Force for the coming years.

Once again, I want to thank each and every one of you for enriching my life. Hoorah, Seabees!

*Construimus Batuimus.*

U.S. Navy photo







# SEABEE SNAPSHOT

Commander, NMCB 1, CDR Dean A. Tufts (left) leads the battalion in a force march in late May in Gulfport, Miss., while in mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) four to help acclimate the Seabees with performing regular activities within a potentially contaminated environment. NMCB 1 prepared for an upcoming field exercise, Operation Desert Heat, designed to sharpen the battalion's combat and contingency construction capabilities.

Photo by MC2 Ja'lon A. Rhinehart



## NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

SEABEE MAGAZINE (Code PA)

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